



Christ the King COURIER

Volume 7, Issue 3

Christ the King Catholic Church

February, 2005

The Holy Eucharist

by Father Neil Carr

On October 10th of this year, we began what our Holy Father wishes to be “an intensely Eucharistic year.” If here, at Christ the King, we wish to enter into this year of Eucharistic celebration, it behooves us - there’s a word you won’t hear anywhere or often! - to understand the true meaning of the Mass, the Eucharistic sacrifice and meal which we gather to celebrate each week-end. Let me explain something of its value and importance.

Sacrifice. In all recorded history, there has never existed a nation, tribe or people that did not worship some kind of deity in whose hands their fate lay. And they all ritualized their complete dependence on their deity by sacrifice.

There are three elements in a sacrifice: 1) something **very precious** which is 2) **destroyed** 3) **as an act of worship** to the God they believed in. Different cultures around the globe put their own distinctive mark on these acts of worship.

The Aztecs (Mexico) searched for the greatest warrior among them, someone **very precious**, very valuable, marched him up a long flight of stairs where a high “priest” was seated. There he was **destroyed**, slain by a sword, his heart cut out and thrown down to the people at the base of the stairs who would rush to grab and eat it, hoping in that way to attain the courage of the slain and all this **as an act of worship** to the gods they believed in.

The Egyptians, living in a land where vegetation of any sort was scarce, collected sheaves of wheat, something **very precious** to them because of its scarcity, laid them on an altar where they were **destroyed**, this time by fire, **as an act of worship** to the gods they believed in.

The Iroquois Indians, a nation of five tribes (now upper New York State and Ontario, Canada), believed their god lived in Niagara Falls and that the roar of the falls was the voice of that god. They would search out the most beautiful young woman in all the nation, someone **very precious**, bind her into a canoe and send her over the falls to be

destroyed, this time by water, **as an act of worship** to the god they believed in.

How does our Mass compare? How can we call it a “sacrifice”? What is so **precious** about bread and wine we bring to the altar? We can pick them up at any supermarket! In themselves, they are not precious, but become so when **we give them meaning.**

In story and literature from the beginning of recorded history, bread has been a symbol of man’s labor. More work went into the making of bread than perhaps into any other endeavor. The field had to be cleared of rocks and boulders - remember there was no machinery in those days, - the soil had to be tilled, the seed planted, then covered over with soil. Then, as the wheat grew, the weeds had to be taken out, and finally at harvest time the stalks had to be cut and carried off to the mill for winnowing and grinding into flour. Finally it would arrive in the kitchen to be baked into bread.

I mentioned that bread is a “symbol”, something that stands for something else. When the priest holds up the bread, just after the gifts are brought to the altar, it is for us to say, “Lord, let this bread stand for my work (Parent? Student? Mechanic?)!”

And wine is also a symbol, a symbol of suffering because in making it, grapes have to be crushed out of existence. It is also a symbol of joy because in the drinking of it we enjoy a pleasurable sensation, a relaxing of tension. So when the priest raises the chalice containing the wine, it is for us to say, “Lord, let this wine represent the joy and the suffering in my life!”

And so I have, under these symbols, placed myself on the altar. I have charged these symbols with meaning, making them **precious** even before the priest charges them with **value** by **destroying** them through the words of consecration which changes them into the Body and Blood of Christ!

(To be continued next issue)



Father Thanh's Message

Usually we recount our deeds and come up with resolutions for the New Year. Then we begin the new year with anticipation. Our parish has a lot to think about if we recount our deeds of 2004 ... too many to recount in this edition of the *Courier*. I would like to reflect briefly on a few of those events.

Our 50th Anniversary was a great success and because of inclement weather we had our celebration in two parts. Even though we had hurricane Jeanne knocking on our doors, we managed to have our Eucharistic Celebration with many of our friends on September 26. A lot of memories were shared at that time. Part two of our Anniversary celebration took place on November 21. The dinner on the evening of the Feast of Christ the King was a great success. The Blessed Mother Kingdome never looked so festive.

The hands of time never stop ticking and soon we were in the midst of preparation for Christmas. Advent was a time of reflection as we joyfully prepared for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. As you went about preparing for your Christmas celebrations did you find time for Jesus? When Jesus knocked, did you open the door? It is my hope that you did open the door and that you decided to give Him your priority.

My heart was uplifted as I experienced the beautiful decorations, the wonderful music and your participation at the Mass. I hope you felt the same way. We continued our Christmas Season with the Feast of the Epiphany. We gathered to celebrate the Magi's visit as we partook of the Holy Meal ... the body and blood of Christ. Then we went to the Blessed John XXIII Hall to continue our celebration with our fourth annual International Dinner. The smells of the different ethnic foods mingled with the joyful fellowship of all our extended family. What a magnificent sight!

As you made your New Year's resolution you may have decided to spend more time with Our Lord. If so, I am sure you took advantage of what we offer here at Christ the King. We just finished our adult study on Matthew and our Lenten Faith Sharing sessions have already begun. We also have a Sunday Bible Study that is ongoing and anyone is free to join them at anytime.

During this Lenten Season as you journey with Jesus to Calvary through your reflections and daily prayers, I invite you to join with us on Friday evenings as we walk in the Stations of the Cross. Please continue

to remember the poor by participating in our annual diocesan "Operation Rice Bowl". What a perfect way to teach your family, in a concrete way, to love "the least of our brothers and sisters".

This is the "Year of the Eucharist". Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, in his wisdom has asked us to center our lives around the Eucharist. The Eucharist should beget stewardship. Eucharist means thanksgiving. We give thanks to the Lord for the many gifts we've received from Him especially the great gift of the Bread of Life. Gratitude is the heart of stewardship. It reminds us that what we have is not what we own. We in fact don't own anything. We are merely stewards of creation for a while. All of us sooner or later, will have to surrender what we have. Meanwhile, we have been given a solemn trust on which we must make a return to the Lord.

There is a story which is told of a family that used the Lord's prayer as grace before meals. Once as the father completed praying "Give us this day our daily bread", his 5-year old daughter whispered, "ask for cake".

How like that little girl we are! We prefer the cake to bread. We take for granted the ordinary gifts and blessings while looking for more cake-like enticements . . . plush homes, fancy cars, expensive clothes, exclusive clubs or travel to exotic places. The pursuit of those material things may not necessarily be harmful, unless they lead us to neglect routine "bread blessings" such as dependable jobs, loving families, genuine friends and our basic physical, mental and spiritual health.

Jesus chose to be present in the "breaking of the bread", not the cutting of the cake. The Eucharist is our greatest "bread blessing". May our journey through Lent help us to renew our appreciation for this bread of life and for all our "bread blessings". As good stewards, we must make a proper response and return to the Lord from whom all blessings come.

Before I close I would like to thank you for your hard work. Your dedication to the Lord fills my heart with joy and thanksgiving. Together, with the Lord's blessing in the Eucharist, we are able to spread "the good news" and make Christ the King a better welcoming and loving community. May God bless you always.



Christ the King Courier

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The mission of *CHRIST THE KING COURIER* is to provide our Christ The King Family with information and news regarding our faith and parish ministries. The goal is to share information, happenings, and stories that abound within the ministries of our parish in the hope that people can use this information to bring you closer to God and our parish church family. Wisdom and enlightenment are two of many of God's gifts, and through *CHRIST THE KING COURIER*, parishioners can share in the joy, love, and fellowship of Christ the King Parish. Our desire is to serve our God, share his message of love and hope with all, and to encourage others to spread the message of the Gospel of Christ the King.

As the official publication of our parish family, *Christ the King Courier* sees the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians as exemplifying the content and character of this publication.

"As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom He loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body."
Colossians 3:12-15.

The *Christ the King Courier* is a quarterly newspaper published by Christ the King Catholic Church. Publisher reserves the right to refuse articles, poetry, advertisements, etc. contrary to paper's policy and standards. The appearance of advertising in these pages does not imply endorsement of businesses, services and products. Readers must exercise prudence in responding to advertising in all media. Political advertising not accepted. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

Welcome!! New Courier Staff!!

We would like to welcome the following to our staff: Pat King, Proofer; Tim Yocum, Free Lance Photographer; Bill Coppedge, Courier Photographer; Georgette Shalley, Proofer; Angeline DelRosario, Quark Processor; Rosemary Schmandt, Proofer.

Editor's Notes

We are now in the Lenten Season. Lent is a time for self-examination, a time to fast and a time to sacrifice. Lent is a great time to get priorities in order and to make necessary changes in your life to be a better Christian. Within the pages of this issue you will find many ads and articles that may help you on your journey.

The pope has announced that this is the "Year of the Eucharist." Our cover story by Father Neil Carr is on the Eucharist and another article on the Eucharist is on page 8. Learn what you can do to make this year special for you. Your faith journey need never be a lonely one. Join with others in your parish family to participate in the Celebration of the Eucharist.

Since the last issue of the *Courier* came out, some went on a five day fun cruise (me included). It was my first and I enjoyed myself very much. As my friend said, "It was a big adventure." Over 100 from Christ the King were on that ship. Kudos to Bill Campbell and the Queens and Kings who invited everyone to join them for a wonderful holiday. There is nothing like going on vacation with "your church family" ~ I heartily recommend it.

There are several articles on Christmas past . . . what fun we had as we celebrated during the season of Advent. The St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Advent Tree Program provided us with ways in which we could share our bounty with others. Articles and thank you notes from recipients are within this issue.

As usual, you came through with many interesting stories for us to place within the pages of *Christ the King Courier*. This paper is truly **your paper**. If you don't see your ministry here, or a picture of someone you know . . . do what others did for this issue . . . submit an article and/or pictures of your own and we will do our best to make **your creation** look its best.

Letters

Christ the King Catholic Church
742 Arlington Road
Jacksonville, FL 32211

October 29, 2004

Dear Christ the King Parish,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I am writing you after receiving a generous donation of \$250.00. I recognize that, in light of the economy today and the needs of so many, your decision to help Emergency Pregnancy Services may have been a difficult one. Our future depends on generosity like yours.

I would like to share with you a short story about just one of the over 6000 ladies that came to us last year. I think it is important for you to hear a real life story about someone that was touched by our center.

Many times, women often talk about what they would do if they unexpectedly got pregnant, never knowing how difficult it would be if it did occur.

When I first found out I was pregnant, the feelings were overwhelming. Being only twenty, I had no idea of what I was going to do. I wanted kids at "Just the right time."

When I came to the center, I was scared to death. The staff could see this and they were so gentle and calming without being overbearing.

As we went into the sonogram room, I began to sweat. I turned and looked at the screen, there it was - a baby! A head, belly, arms, legs, even fingers and toes! This is when the tears turned on. With just one quick glance, my decision was made, and there I was, going to be a mom.

If it wasn't for the center, I might have made a mistake I'd regret the rest of my life. I thank God for them every time I feel the baby moving inside of me, because EPS showed me what I might have lost.

Your generosity touches the lives of so many people. Daily, we hear from women struggling to make the crucial decision between life and death or to meet their child's basic needs. The baby's name from the story above is Jason. Donations like yours allowed him to experience his birthday and his mother to find peace and comfort in her decision.

Please pray that one day soon the dignity of every human life will be accepted without question and that God will provide the resources to keep our mission alive.

Sincerely in LIFE!
Tracie Cox
Executive Director
Emergency Pregnancy Services

To whomever it is that opens these e-mails and reads them!

My name is Erin Curry. I am a junior at Catholic University (it's in Washington, D.C.), and a very long time ago I was a LIFE TEEN. After sophomore year of high school I moved to New Hampshire, so my memories are a little faded. But that is slightly irrelevant.

I want to say that the LIFE TEEN program going on in Jacksonville had a huge impact on my faith life, and that the things that happen there will affect the kids there now for the rest of their lives as well. I am pretty sure LIFE TEEN is the reason I'm an active Catholic today.

I remember the church, the music (I still hear the music here at Catholic every week at Praise and Worship Adoration - it's a very cool tug at the memory), the one or two retreats I had the chance to go on, and all of the love and support that flows from where you are. I think about it pretty often.

So here is a strange little shout-out to a program that changed my life at the ripe-old age of 15! May God Bless you all. My prayers are with you!
Erin.

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you all for the beautiful gifts that you gave our residents at Christmas. You brought joy and happiness to all of them.
Thank you again
All Saints Catholic Nursing Home

continued on page 8

What's Happening



- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Amy Duncan family | Lani Obispo | Ms. Michelle Soury |
| Jami Michelle Ashley | Angel Santiago | Mr. John Petkewicz |
| Sabrina Lynn Doering | Japri Tsumbpawng | Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Blair |
| Mr. Tu Thi Le | Myrna Leonard | Jr. Jonathan Guzman |
| Jean Francois Evens | Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Trull | Mr. & Mrs. Jean Hilaire |
| Linda Hollbrook | Mr. & Mrs. Ron Nicholas | Mr. & Mrs. David Ross |
| Lindsay Marie Jones | Mr. Hung Pham | Mr. & Mrs. Jason Ramker |
| Justine Kirkwood | Zelda Alvarez | Mr. & Mrs. George Howard |
| Janis Kovac | Elizabeth Blodgett | Mr. Thien Vu Nguyen |
| Luz Maria Medina | Elizabeth Ledbetter | Mr. Vi They Nguyen |
| Huong Nguyen | Chau Nguyen | The Gregory Branham Family |
| Maria Vargas | Thuy Hang Phan | The Russell Haddock Family |
| Roland Wasembeck | Binh Nguyen | Mahion Edward Theobald |
| Catalina Abreu | Ms. Shannon Boyette | The Chad Duncan Family |
| Doris Abreu | Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso Zarco | The Timothy Whitehurst Family |
| Jo Marie Carter | Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wynn | Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Corriveau |
| Catherine Hawkins | Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Reyes | Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Damaso |
| Melissa Herrera | Ms. Deborah Moore | |
| Jonny Le | Mr. & Mrs. Alex Oh-Criner | |

Marriages:



We would like to acknowledge the following parishioners who were recently united into the Sacrament of Marriage.

Phan Dinh Huy Tran and Bich Nhi Vu
Jason Martin and Christine Perez

Baptisms:



We would like to announce the following people who were recently baptized into the Catholic Church.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Logan Sorensen | Malia Rose Palenik |
| Elizabeth Wrynn McAnally | Bryan Jean-Louis |
| Faith Gabrielle Tuliao Cabal | Schneider Jean-Louis |
| Alyssa Marie Jones-Slobodski | Jesus Ramos Cuapiaco, III |
| Jacey Ngoc Nguyen | Aidan Patrick Ryan |
| Roxanne Martina Ramos | Kara Beth Childress |
| Cade Edward Duncan | Liliana Tablante Baiacan |
| Isabelle Carolyn Deanna Ashley | John Tran Hung |
| Payton Allaine Kierce | Frank Dillon Mullins |
| Jordon Renay Kierce | Nicholas Zamora Garcia |
| Contessa Medina | Halina Anne Rhoden |
| Eboni Kiah Janvier | Joseph Mason Murillo |
| Liliana Tablante Baiacan | Daniel Jose Rivera |
| Elijah Neil Tabaranza Yap | Richard Tran |
| Derrian Thai-Bao Nguyen | Richard Thomas Boyette |
| Matthew Alexander Santo | Samuel Eugene Ranker |

Deaths:



The following people are recently deceased members of our parish for whom we offer our special prayers.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Krim Ksor | Susan T. Bouko |
| Arthur Detmers | Elizabeth Wagner |
| Charles Roche | Grace Theresa Morrell |
| Sophie Wretstrom | Lillian Janeal Strickler |
| Gertrude S. Patrick | Edmond Wargo |
| Dolores Post | Katherine Tahey |
| Frank V. Bauman | Autumn Shackelford |
| Julie Joseph Burke | Donna Durden |
| Vivian Bailey | Joseph DiMauro |
| Marie Lapay | |

HYMNODY: Song of the Church



by Bernie Sans

Hymns are the songs of the Church—theology expressed in music and sacred verse. We sing our faith. The music invites us into the circle of believers, sounding forth what the words proclaim. The Bible encourages us often (364 times) to join in hymns and chants and spiritual songs. Our earliest forebears knew that music speaks a language beyond words, the language of the heart, which united us with each other and with the Eternal in a way that words alone can never do. So the Church had sung through the ages, and our

contemporary hymnals are just the latest collections in a long tradition.

There are many ways of combining words and music in worship, but nothing can substitute for the voice of an assembly raised in praise, proclamation and prayer. If one doubts that, one only needed to be at our recent celebration of our parish's 50th anniversary. Hymns well-sung are the voice of the people, addressing their Maker in a language given for that purpose.

Hymns are sung in styles as different as chants and chorales, Christmas carols and the latest Gospel offerings. Spirituals have enriched our services for many years and have been the vanguard of new hymns coming from all over the world. New hymnals are published to make known new treasures, and the best of these spread quickly from one denomination to another. ("Catholic" songs and hymns such as "On Eagles Wings", "Be Not Afraid", "Prayer of St. Francis", etc. are now published in new Protestant hymnals.) Hymns are

often known by their first lines or by their tune names, and they are organized by meter or the number and length of the lines in the poem. Here's an example of a later common meter tune that everyone knows today.

- ◆ Amazing grace how sweet the sound - 8 syllables or notes
- ◆ That saved a wretch like me! - 6 syllables or notes
- ◆ I once was lost by now am found - 8 syllables or notes
- ◆ Was blind, but now I see.- 6 syllables or notes.

Tune: New Britain

(8.6.8.6 is known as "common meter"; the "long meter" is all 8's. Look in the back of our hymnal under the metrical index to see how many different meters there are.)

Our heritage includes hymns from every century since the birth of Christ, and from every country in the world to which Christianity has spread. This is a treasury of incalculable worth—far greater than we could learn in a lifetime. Even

today, the stream of hymnody continues to broaden and deepen. Each epoch contributes a characteristic sound and a unique point of view expressing its own theology. We celebrate our ancestors when we sing their hymns and our contemporaries when we join in the new songs. Each complements the other and adds to the richness of worship.

So, we join in the chant, the psalter hymn, the chorale, the new song from anywhere on the globe. Realize that it is important not only *that* we sing, or *what* we sing, but also *how* we sing. Music is the language of the ear, and it must sound beautiful—in tune and in time and in intent—to be a worthy offering to the Creator. Learning to sing these hymns together, beautifully, is a spiritual discipline which will reap untold rewards for both individuals and the group. In singing together, we become what we are singing about: one body, united in mind and heart and voice, bringing our cares, celebrations and thanksgivings to the Author of All.

Do You Have a Will? Is it Up-to-Date?

by Joe McTighe



Are you aware that if you do not have a will when you die, only half of your estate goes to your surviving spouse (along with the first \$20,000) and the remainder goes to your children? Most people when asked this question seem to think that the full amount goes to the surviving spouse! It's all part of understanding why each of us should have a will, so that our specific financial instructions will be followed at the time when our Blessed Lord calls us to be with Him!

We learned some of the nuances of this topic during a very interesting seminar on "Wills & Estate Planning" held at Christ the King Parish last year. About 20 parishioners attended the informative session, which was sponsored by the Catholic Foundation and the Stewardship Office of the Diocese of St. Augustine. The Director of Planned Giving, Nancy Geary, served as the moderator, and Jack Fishburne, Esq., of the Purcell, Flanagan & Hay attorney firm in Jacksonville, gave the presentation.

More than 50% of the adults who die each year leave no will! That is really hard to believe. These

people work a lifetime and then at death leave their estate distribution to be determined by state statutes.

At the seminar we were told some of the other reasons for setting up a will (or trust), such as:

1. Reduce administration costs
2. Appoint a personal representative
3. Appoint a guardian for minor children
4. Inadequacy of joint tenancy
5. Provide for specific bequests
6. Estate and income tax planning

A topic which brought up considerable discussion was probate administration. Probate is the court-supervised process for identifying the decedent's assets and distributing them to the beneficiaries. Fortunately, this process in the State of Florida is far less cumbersome than in other states like New York, New Jersey and California. However, it is still a drawn-out hassle, taking a minimum of six months and, for a typical taxable estate, about two years.

Estate planning was covered in some detail, and various types of trusts were defined. A trust basically is an arrangement whereby property is held by a trust company or individual (trustee) for the benefit of oneself or others. One of the most popular trusts is the revocable living trust, which provides financial management during one's lifetime, avoids the probate time period after death, and maintains the privacy of your assets.

Charitable giving to the church, which is an excellent method to

show thanksgiving to God for the blessings received, was described. A person might wish to make a bequest through his/her will or establish a charitable remainder trust whereby current income is retained while generating an income tax deduction. Another worthwhile example is a charitable gift annuity, where you make a perpetual gift to the diocese or parish and receive fixed income payments for life.

And now, time for a commercial: For more info on any type of planned giving within the diocese, please feel free to contact Nancy Geary at 262-3200 or ngeary@dosafl.com <<mailto:ngeary@dosafl.com>>.

In addition, it was stressed that each of us should complete three other key documents: a durable power of attorney, a health-care power of attorney and a living will. A durable power appoints someone to make financial decisions if you become incapacitated. A health-care power appoints someone to make your medical decisions. A living will specifies your wishes regarding life-prolonging medical support.

The participants at the seminar seemed to find the detailed info quite meaningful, as Mr. Fishburne did a very commendable job (especially since he was a substitute) in presenting the salient points and fielding the numerous questions. We all left the session quite pleased since the final touch was a nice lunch put on by the CTK staff!

"Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love"



Sacrament of Love
The Holy Eucharist
The presence of Christ by the power of His word and the Holy Spirit

At the Last Supper, on the night He was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of His Body and Blood. This He did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until He should come again, and so to entrust to His beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of His death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.
Daily Adoration
Monday - Friday
6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Nocturnal Adoration First
Friday 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

“Confirmation 2005”



by Lucille Guzzone

“Would you die for Christ? That is really a sobering question, especially for 13 year olds. But that is precisely what Bishop Galeone proposed to the Confirmandi at their Confirmation Mass on January 29. Most replies were in the affirmative, but the Bishop went on to explain that in the real world, that answer may not hold true. “But,” he said, “by their keeping Jesus in their hearts and by allowing the Holy Spirit to flow through their very beings, they may grow to feel that way in all circumstances that may come about in their lives.” He went on to ask them to follow the guidelines which he sent to them via letters which they received earlier in the week. Upon completion of the Mass, the Bishop joined the families in the Blessed Mother Hall for the reception.

Natalia Alvarez
Lina Bahri
Alexis Beal
Morgan Corbett
Ryan DeForge
Agustin D’Orazio
Samuel Ekkawi
Gabrielle Fares
Alissa Fiandaca
Matthew Goff
Kirsten Greene
Christine Grochmal
Kyle Holbrook
Taylor Howard

Taylor Hull
Jamie Jones
Robert Jordan
Andrew Klima
Michael Koch
Dustin Layland
Brandon Lee
Rose Loiseau
Kyle Longenecker
Ashley Madden
Michael Mayotte
Megan McClellan
James Mollenhour
Matthew Niesen

Brian Orcullo
Travis Orr
Sean Patterson
Mary Katherine Register
John Riddell
Stephanie Rios
Bradley Saad
Jeannette Saliba
Max Schanze
Valerie Schuman
Rachel Scott
Costi Shami
Michael Smith
Marcus Snow

Joshua Spector
Jacob Stromatt
Matthew Sullivan
Emmalee Tanner
Hillary Turner
Huston Van Doren
Amy Wallace
Kayla Weaver
Justin Wendel
Erica Williams
Gina Wills
Nicole Winters
Kelly Worthington
Steven Yip

Inside the Parish Council

by Katie Knowsit

There is so much happening inside the Parish Council these days that Katie hardly knows where to begin. First and foremost there has been a changing of the presidential guard in the Council. John Klinkenberg, who officially took over the office on January 1st of 2005, has succeeded Mike Mackin who held that post so staunchly for ten years.

In December a celebratory meeting was held in which a lovely award was presented to Mike Mackin by our pastor, Father Thanh. He thanked Mike for his years of dedicated service to our parish. Mike, always gracious, gave grateful recognition to a number of individuals in the parish and to the four pastors that he served under for their invaluable assistance in making the wheels of many council projects run so smoothly. He went on to say that after his wife and family, and the Blessed Mother, the concerns of the parish and parishioners were always paramount when it came to the business of leading the Council. As an aside, Katie might add that Mike would surely appreciate your prayers for his two sons who are both serving in Iraq.

Following Mike’s remarks, Father Thanh introduced the new Council President, John Klinkenberg. Katie must interject that the Holy Spirit must have a big part in choosing our presidents for He has sent us another outstanding leader who is energetic, enthusiastic, and full of plans to make Christ the King parish better than ever, if that’s possible.

John and his lovely wife, Wendi, have been married for eighteen years and are

blessed with four children. He has been a member of our parish since 1994 and in that time he has served at one time or another as Youth Minister; led a Young Adult and Singles ministry; helped to bring the MOMS ministry to Christ the King, is deeply involved in the LIFETEEN program, hosted a Diocesan Youth Rally at our parish; holds



the position of Director of “Camp I Am Special”, and owns and operates his own business. There is much more to say about this outstanding young man but this gives you a picture of how committed John is to our parish and particularly to his heavy emphasis on our youth. We all know that Christ the King’s future growth depends on our youth and it is fortunate for us, that this is John’s area of expertise.

What kinds of things are discussed at our meetings? Anything that has to do with the parish whether it is church, school, or social activities. For instance, plans are already being made for the School Carnival on the 23rd of April, and Patrice Pruitt and her group of volunteers from the Family School Association are already hard at work planning for the enjoyment of our parish family.

Even before the Carnival takes place, our parishioners are being offered an opportunity to see a one-woman show coming to the Kingdom on Saturday, March 12th entitled Late Night Catechism. Anyone who ever went to a Catholic grammar school will immediately relate to it. Katie saw some snippets of it from a video and it is hilarious. This is just an example of two events planned for you. They are as different as the proverbial night and day but each will have its own appeal and audience. Your Parish Council is working very hard to bring the



very best to its parishioners. One might say that we are a full-service parish. Our new president, John Klinkenberg, wants to remind you that the Parish Council meetings are open to all. The place is the Shirley David Hall on the first Monday of each month. Come and see for yourself, you won’t be disappointed.

International Catholic Stewardship Conference

by Carol-Ann Black

This should have been written about six weeks ago—when memories were truly fresh and it would have been much easier. However, sometimes the perspective that time gives yields a better product. One can but hope.

The 2004 International Catholic Stewardship Conference took place in New Orleans. It was September 12 to 15. Not a propitious time period, as things worked out, (you're familiar with Hurricane Ivan?) but then who's to know these things years in advance, when plans are made and finalized. These conferences are set up so that registration is dealt with all day Sunday, and then come the opening ceremonies in the late afternoon.



And then the keynote address. Last year's address was awesome, and related directly to the concepts of Stewardship at the international level. This year we heard Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ. She bills herself as a southern storyteller, and she lives up to her billing. However, she far outperforms that simple title. Sister Helen wrote the book *Dead Man Walking* which has been turned into a movie, a play and an opera. She is currently writing a second book (perhaps it is finished by now) *The Machinery of Death: An Eye Witness Account of the Death Penalty in America*. Interesting, says I, perhaps admirable, but stewardship? Sister Helen was able to draw an almost straight line from basic stewardship efforts to her prison ministry. And when she is finished with you,



wonder that you didn't understand it in the first place.

Sister Helen was born in Baton Rouge in 1939, entered the convent in 1957, and worked for many years in educational positions in the Diocese of New Orleans. In 1981 she chose to leave this comfortable world and moved, lock, stock and barrel into the St. Thomas housing project. It was here that she confronted the realities of prison life, as they affected the poor families she worked with on a day to day basis. The depth of her love for her people, and the incredible energy that she is able to muster on their behalf, is truly beyond human understanding. A fine and wonderful inspiration for the remainder of our Stewardship Conference.

Monday morning meant it was time to join the others of the CTK team for breakfast. (Of course, it was also time to recheck the progress of Ivan—where in Florida would he strike—would we have difficulty returning to Jax?) Over coffee and bagels we determined who would attend which program sessions. Father Thanh, Peter and Debbie House and Frank Japour and myself made up our team this year and we were able to participate in a variety of sessions. These ranged in subject from "Making the Parish a Fertile Ground for Stewardship" and "Promoting Vocations Through Stewardship" to "Living Stewardship with the Third World Poor," "Fostering Stewardship of

Time and Talent," and "A Bishop's Stewardship Journey." I believe that the single most important aspect of Stewardship that I absorbed this year was that a firm grounding in the spiritual basis of the concept is necessary for a flourishing program. A flourishing joyful parish.

Just the words "the Bible tells me so," doesn't cut it. Personal and community prayer, personal and community participation in the parish sacramental life, inclusion and integration of all members of the parish family are of paramount importance.

Lunch on Monday included Christian Stewardship and Bishop Connare Awards presentations. They were all very inspiring, as one would expect. Lunch also allowed some down time to get to know some folks from all over the U.S., plus Canada (a major presence) and other countries. More and more international representatives are attending. Many of the sessions were conducted in Spanish for those ministering to large Hispanic communities.

In the late afternoon we boarded buses to the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Concelebrated Liturgy. The artistic feature of this Mass was the performance by a Cajun/African dance and drummers troupe before the Mass. It was a phenomenal production and a truly inspiring Mass.



After Mass we went for something to eat at a neighborhood "joint" recommended by our bus driver. It was fabulous. We lined up to order and shortly, through the clatter and the din, came a server with our dinners—from sausage to fish and chips to calamari. Needless to say, after the feast we walked ourselves back to the hotel—to check on the further progress of Ivan.

Ivan was looking more and more Terrible when viewed from the perspective of New Orleans.

On Tuesday morning we did breakfast together; went on to our sessions as planned; and after just one, I yielded to my personal panic and headed for the airport—along with the rest of New Orleans. The



highway was a mess, the lines were long, but the planes were flying and people were cheerful and happy to be able to leave such a threatening situation. The young moms with three and four little ones fleeing possible disaster really touched the heart strings. How long would it take for them to recover financially from this unplanned, unexpected travel?

SO—that was the end of the Stewardship Conference for me. The rest of the CTK group departed later in the day (but not much later). We all missed out on a number of sessions that would have been interesting and beneficial, but the phrase "Wait til next year," applies to many things as well as baseball, and we look forward to the International Catholic Stewardship Conference in 2005 in San Francisco.



Christ himself, our King, must have smiled down on us.

When the price of the dinner was announced, I thought the cost was a bit steep. When I walked into the Kingdome and saw the wonderful things our small contributions had accomplished, I stood in awe.

Christ the King's fifty year birthday celebration was an outstanding affair. When we celebrate our seventy-five year anniversary, the committee will be hard put to top it.

more pictures on center pages

Fifty Years – Wow!

by George Olin Middleton

Our recent Fifty Year Celebration was a wonderful event that eclipsed any other event held at Christ the King.

Blessed Mother Kingdome was transformed as if by magic from a noisy, sweaty sports venue into a magnificent dining room that would have been a credit to the finest hotel in our city.

The tables were covered with linen cloths. There were neatly folded linen-like napkins with our anniversary prayer tucked in. There was glistening china, glassware and silverware. The crosses and lighted candles that made up the table centerpieces set everything off to perfection.

We had a crew of volunteer waiters from all walks of life who performed their duties as if that was the duty they had been trained for all of their lives. They kept water

glasses and wine glasses filled and they removed dirty dishes promptly and efficiently.

The buffet dinner was delicious and well cooked, arranged in a most appetizing manner. The open bar was available to one and all and added greatly to the wonderful atmosphere of the occasion.

The committee that put this all together is due congratulations and appreciation, both individually and as a group, for a job well done. Father Thanh was well pleased.

Guadalupe!



by Father Neil J. Carr, S.J.

A few words about my recent month's stay in Guadalajara, Mexico. Hardly a vacation, I was in class six hours a day (9-1, 4-6). Just the teacher and myself. When not in class, I was living with a Mexican family whose home was over their shoe store, a twenty-minute adventure over perilous, life-threatening "sidewalks."

Of more interest to you probably was a 7-hour overnight bus trip to Mexico City, a metropolis of 30 million people!

There I visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, visited by John Paul II shortly after he was elected pope, and gave her the title of "Empress of the Americas."

Back in 1531 Our Lady appeared to a young peasant man in the scrubby hills of the village of Tepeyac, no longer a village but part of the sprawling metropolis. She told him that she wanted a church built there in her honor, and that he was to go to the archbishop with that request. Quite naturally, the archbishop in time asked for proof from Our Lady that the request was genuine. When the young man, Juan Diego, relayed this message to Our Lady she directed Juan to go farther up the hill, gather the roses he would find there (it was the middle of winter) and carry them to the archbishop as proof of her request. When Juan Diego opened his cloak in the archbishop's study, not only did the roses cascade to the floor, but on his cloak was a portrait of Our Lady just as Juan Diego had seen her.

The basilica built on that site is still (but barely) standing. A new, very modern basilica was built across a huge plaza in 1972-74, and Juan Diego's cloak with its precious image of Our Lady hangs in a frame high above and behind the main altar. The basilica holds 18,000 people, the plaza outside 40,000. Mass was being celebrated the day I was there which happened to be the feast of the Assumption and the basilica was filled. As I had promised before leaving Christ the King, I remembered all of you there in my prayers.

Underneath the pavement of the great plaza are four levels of

parking, off the first of which is a large religious goods store (the only one on the property). In it there is a blown-up picture of the face of Our Lady taken from the cloak, the texture of which looked like burlap to me. In the lower right corner of her right eye, with the help of a magnifying glass, you can clearly see the face of Juan Diego looking directly at her.

This was the climax of my trip, a very emotional one. Next stop that Sunday was the ancient city of the Aztecs where two of their pyramids still stand amid the ruins of their civilization. Thousands of years before Christ these people had an advanced culture blessed with highly skilled artisans, craftsmen, mathematicians, and astronomers. They were able, for example, to calculate the length of a year as being 365 days, with an adjustment for leap year! Their dependence on the forces of nature led them to believe in a sun god, moon god, rain god, etc. Human sacrifices were a bloody part of their religion, and continued to be with their descendants (who are still part of Mexican society) until 1531 when Our Lady appeared. Then they stopped!

There was a chunk of ego in my going to Mexico. It is said that one cannot learn a language after the age of forty. I was out to disprove that, but I fear it's true. With a dictionary and grammar at my side, I can write a letter or homily in passable Spanish. I can read the language with little difficulty and understand it if one speaks slowly. But to preach spontaneously is still beyond my reach. But I'm glad I tried. At least now I am able to hear the confessions of the elderly Latinos who have never learned English, and understand them when they are hospitalized. The two homilies I gave in Mexico were carefully written out and read. The applause was less than deafening.

Worrying about how the parish was getting along without me weighed on me heavily. I am grateful beyond measure to Father Thanh and Father Richard for shouldering the extra burdens of ministry which my absence imposed on them, and for the prayers of y'all for a safe journey.

Epiphany Sunday and International Dinner



by Persephone SAYS

The solemnity of Epiphany was celebrated on January 2, 2005 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The Mass began with music by the choir and hand-bell choir, followed by the processional hymn "We Three Kings." This Mass was different in that it was witnessed and celebrated by the ethnic diversity of our parish. The readings were done in Spanish and Tagalog, while the Prayer of the Faithful was in many languages: French, German, Italian, Dari, Creole, Arabic and Polish.

Father Thanh gave a fitting homily about the unimportance of the color of skin or hair, or lack of hair, and the Epiphany was a revelation to people of all nations. Father Carr prayed in Spanish the portion of the Eucharistic Prayer that follows the Consecration. The bell in the tower rang out the whole time Father was praying but his Spanish could still be heard.

The Adult Choir with Jackie Comstock as cantor for "The Jesus Gift" was outstanding. The Vietnamese Choir added their beautiful voices to the celebration during the communion processions and "Silent Night" was sung in German, Spanish and

English. The Dismissal Hymn was, appropriately, "Go, Tell It On The Mountain." The music chosen for the entire Mass was wonderful and it was obvious lots of practice and work went into the whole presentation. Thank you for such a beautiful Epiphany Mass.

Following the Mass, the fourth Annual International Dinner was held. Everyone was asked to bring an ethnic dish to share with their fellow parishioners, just as the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to share with the Baby Jesus. The tables had been arranged and decorated by volunteers and the hall was filled with the aroma of food that so many people had prepared.

One could sample food from around the world without leaving the hall. There were Arabic, Mexican, Irish, German, Polish, Spanish, Italian, Vietnamese, Filipino, French and American favorites - something for everyone. There were several native costumes and many smiling faces. A special thank you to our Filipino parishioners who provided entertainment during the dinner and thanks to everyone who helped to make this annual dinner a success.

Year of the Eucharist

by Frank Becht

On June 13, 2004, Pope John Paul II declared the Year of the Eucharist to begin October 2004, ending in October 2005.

What is the Year of the Eucharist?

The pope is calling us to renew our faith and understanding of the "source and summit" of our faith. For the past 2-3 years Pope John Paul has been attempting to get our attention, first with his apostolic letter "Nova Millennio" at the close of the Jubilee Year 2000. He urged the faithful to start anew with prayer and increased effort for a higher standard of Christian living. His most recent effort has been an encyclical "Ecclesia de Eucharistia." He encourages us to spend time in prayer, "in silent adoration and heartfelt love before Christ present in the most holy Sacrament."

By focusing on the Eucharist, "the center of the Church's life," we can through prayer, worship and adoration become effective in evangelization. We can become "apostles who are 'experts' in the celebration of, adoration and contemplation of the Eucharist." Pope John Paul II is calling the Church and its members to a renewal of our faith through the Eucharist.

Dark clouds of the past.

There have been many abuses and abandonment of the Eucharist; there has been a general misunderstanding of the Eucharist and the Eucharistic liturgy. The sacrificial meaning of the Eucharist is often ignored and reduced "as a simple fraternal meal." In many places Eucharistic Adoration has been completely abandoned. Allowing non-Catholics to routinely receive communion has become the practice in many areas. It is felt that over 50 percent of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence. **Can you believe?** This is understandable when it is estimated that today 50 percent of Catholics do not attend Sunday Mass regularly. There has been a general lack of reverence and devotion for the Eucharist for many years.

What Catholics believe about the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the central sacrament of our faith; its importance and meaning cannot be overstated. The Second Vatican Council declared that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of Christian life." In the blessed sacrament of the holy Eucharist, after the consecration of the bread and wine, our Lord Jesus Christ, true God and man, is truly, really, and substantially contained under the appearances of bread and wine. The belief in the Real Presence is central to our faith.



The Eucharist is described in many ways: the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of the Bread, the Holy Sacrifice, the Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion, the Mass and many others. In the Eucharist, the Catechism states, Catholics experience with one another an "intimate union with Jesus Christ."

The Eucharist is a direct result of the Incarnation and the Cross; it is the crucified and risen Christ offered under the appearance of bread and wine. This must become obvious to all Catholics; it is a truth that has often been misunderstood and falsely understood.

At the Last Supper, Jesus said "Take and eat; this is my body," and "Drink, for this is my blood" (Mt 26:26-30) and in the "bread of life" discourse, "My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink" (Jn 6:51-59). This is not metaphorical language; some felt it to be a hard saying because they did not interpret His words spiritually. The sacrifice of the Mass brings into effect the once-for-all time death of Jesus. The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross was a one time act for all generations. The Mass is a re-enactment of the never to be repeated action of the Cross but is applied today through the Sacrifice of the Mass at the altars across the world in an unbloody manner. At the Last Supper, Jesus commanded His disciples to repeat this mystery, "Do this in memory of Me."

The Eucharist is the true body and blood of Christ under the form of bread and wine. It is not just a symbolic representation as held by many of the Protestant Churches. That is why we have tabernacles to contain the precious and intimate body of Christ. That is why we genuflect upon entering church. That is why we have silence in our churches, out of respect for the presence of Jesus Christ in our tabernacles. Jesus Christ is truly present as result of the sacrifice of the Mass. This makes possible the adoration by our faithful throughout the hours of the day.

What can we do during this Year of the Eucharist?

Christ the King Church community is no stranger to

Eucharistic Adoration but more needs to be done. Nocturnal Adoration was instituted in 1962 by our founding pastor, Thomas Larkin, now retired Bishop of St. Petersburg. Nocturnal is a viable ministry in Christ the King after 42 years.

Daily Adoration was started by our former pastor Monsignor Mortimer Danaher in September 1989; it is likewise a viable, active ministry in the parish. With the reduction in church membership, it is increasingly more difficult to fill the adoration hours.

You can promote Adoration and the Eucharist by becoming a member of Nocturnal Adoration and/or Daily Adoration. You can foster Adoration even more by asking a friend, family member or another parish member to join you in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

If no one asks you to join, call Paul Ghiotto at 727-5040 for information on Nocturnal and Claretta Lamusga at 743-9998 for information about Daily Adoration.

Perhaps even more importantly, you can urge family members and church members who are no longer attending Mass to do so again. Explain to them the importance of rekindling their faith for themselves, their children and grandchildren. Point out to them the many challenges present in the "World Crisis" today, which relate to our freedom and our faith. Let's individually make an effort to increase participation at Mass and the sacraments.

Become a disciple of the "Word" as our faith requires! Let's increase attendance at Sunday Mass!

Letters

continued from page 3

The following are a few of the thank you notes from the young women at St. Gerard House to let us know that our gifts were much appreciated. The Advent Tree Ministers and the Courier staff thought you would like to hear from these ladies in their own words:

Dear Christmas Angels,

I would like to say thank you for all of the wonderful gifts that were given to us for the holidays. The gifts were very much needed and appreciated by all of the girls for our born and unborn children. You have sincerely made our holiday season a little brighter. Thank you for your kindness and sincere blessings. You are in my prayers. Have a blessed year.

Sincerely with love and appreciation, Ashley

Dear Christmas Angels,

I am eternally grateful for all of the magnificent Christmas gifts you donated to our school. Your kindness and generosity helped to make my Christmas and my daughter's Christmas so much better. Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to help our school. Thank you again and God Bless.

Sincerely, Stacy

Dear Christmas Angels,

We really truly appreciated your generosity and kindness in remembering the students at the St. Gerard High School

The students' faces were so exciting to watch as they opened the beautiful presents for their babies and themselves. I thank you personally for the baby items as they were definitely needed in my situation.

There really is no other best way to say thanks but to praise God for all His many blessings and you are one of those blessings.

Sincerely and with love, Crystal

Lenten Service Schedule

Fish Fry

every Friday during Lent except Good Friday
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Blessed John XXIII Hall

Stations of the Cross

February 11, 18, 25 and March 4, 11, 18
at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Lenten Concert - The Don Thompson Chorale

March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the church

Parish Penance Service March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Palm Sunday on March 20

Holy Week Schedule

Mass of the Lord's Supper - Holy Thursday - March 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Seven Last Words - Good Friday - March 25 at 12:00 p.m.
Father Neil Carr, ministers and choral groups from area churches will present this program

Lord's Passion - Good Friday - at 3:00 p.m.
Vietnamese - 6:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil on March 26 at sundown
Easter Masses - Easter Sunday - on March 27
at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Vietnamese - 2:00 p.m.

Priest of Tomorrow

by Frank Becht

David Ruchinski is our "priest of tomorrow." He's serving out his pastoral year in the seminary at Assumption Catholic Church on Atlantic Boulevard, trying hard to become familiar with the many activities and ministries in the parish community.

David was born in Warren, Ohio of Donald and Shirley Ruchinski who had a special relationship with parish life. His mother grew up on the grounds of the school that all of his aunts and uncles and father had attended. David's grandfather was the custodian and caretaker of church and school property for 30 years. His aunt was the cook in the rectory; the church has always been his extended family.

Upon the death of his mother from cancer, at an early age, he was adopted by Dave and Sue Ashcraft, another Warren, Ohio couple. Both families were hard working blue-collar laborers who worked in the steel mills and factories. As a youngster, he attended St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Cyril and Methodious Grade School, St. Mary's Middle School and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1987 at the age of 17 years.

David felt that he might like to become a priest, so he enrolled at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio for the Youngstown, Ohio diocese. His major was in English and his minor was in Philosophy. Being an above average student, he graduated in 1990 in three years. His bishop wanted him to spend another year before entering theology because of his young age; this not being to his liking, he decided to enroll in Ohio State University where he would seek a Masters degree in English. He was able to accomplish

this in two years as well as serve as a graduate teacher associate. It was during his tenure at Ohio State University that David met a young lady who was also attending Ohio State University. Their relationship developed to the point that they were considering marriage. David still had that feeling about a priestly vocation, so they decided to wait one year since she had a job teaching English in Japan.

It was about this time that Father Mike Houle, president of Bishop Kenny High School, was seeking religious education teachers for Bishop Kenny. Knowing Father Houle from his time on the faculty of Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, David signed for a one year job as an English teacher which grew

to two, three and finally five years at Bishop Kenny as an English, drama and religion teacher. He also taught English part time at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. During this time the romance with the young lady he had met at Ohio State subsided but he did date local Jacksonville girls.

While teaching at Bishop Kenny, David first attended church at Assumption. Later he went to Immaculate Conception. He liked the design and atmosphere of the church. He got to know Father Leon quite well.

In 1995, Karen Crews, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for curriculum for the Diocese of St. Augustine, asked David to oversee the revision in

language arts curriculum for the schools. This was quite a large project and it caused David to begin thinking in terms of educational leadership instead of just plain English. In the fall of 1995, David directed his interest to graduate school for a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of North Florida; it took

him six years on a part time basis to complete it. In 1997 he took a job at Episcopal High School as an English professor, which he held until 2000. It was during this period of time that he bought his first house near Episcopal High School. His home was located next to the building where he held classes; he was never late to class.

A friend at Lutheran Social Services who was involved in refugee resettlement asked David to design a program for immigrant teenagers who didn't speak English to assist them in adjusting to their new environment. For two years, 2000-2002, he worked with youngsters, first in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, then later at the Lutheran Social Services Lantzman Center on Phillips Highway as coordinator of the New Beginnings Youth Program. This program provided English language classes, cultural orientation and counseling as needed. He was also able to finish his dissertation for his doctorate in educational leadership at UNF.

The idea of a vocation to the priesthood, although diminished,

never really left him. Who knows what would have happened had the bishop not insisted that he take more courses before continuing in the seminary. David says he resented the bishop's lack of understanding, thus he went to Ohio State, but he is thankful for the path down which the Lord led him. In March 2002, as he continued to pray over his vocation, he contacted Father John Tetlow, then Vocations Director for the diocese. In April 2002, he met with Father Tetlow. On May 21, 2002, he had an interview with the Vocation Board and was accepted for further seminary study. It was Father Leon, his pastor, who recommended him for the priesthood. Bishop Victor Galeone assigned him to seminary study at the North American College in Rome where he has completed his first two years of theology.

He is currently assigned to Assumption for one year of pastoral work after which he will return to the North American College for his final two years of theology. In October 2006, he expects to be ordained as Deacon at St. Peters Basilica in Rome. In June 2007, Bishop Galeone will ordain David to the priesthood in the Cathedral in St. Augustine.

It might appear that David has all work and no play, but he was active in sports, especially racquet ball, volley ball and weight lifting. For a person of 35 years of age, he is a handsome young man in excellent physical condition.

Where he will be first assigned upon ordination is unknown. We would be most fortunate if he were assigned to Christ the King. In any event David has much to offer to the priesthood and our diocese. I am most impressed with this young man and his accomplishments! Thank God for continuing to nurture his vocation.



Symbols

by Mickey Kenny

Sometimes we are puzzled by the exact meaning of "letters" we have seen in art and architecture in our churches all of our lives. But what do they mean exactly? The internet has given us access to a great deal of information we have previously only thought we knew.

IHCOYC
IHCOYC
IHΞΟΥΣ

This is the Greek name for Jesus. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (top) or the Greek alphabet (bottom).

IHC
ihc

IHS
ihs

From this Greek name of Jesus the sacred monogram is formed using the first three letters, forming the sacred monogram IHC or another form, IHS.

INRI
INRI

These are the Latin letters which stand for the inscription Pilate ordered the soldiers to place on the cross of Jesus: *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* – Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

John 19:19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

IX
IX

Apparently this is rarely used today. It is formed using the first letter of the Greek work for Jesus, I = (IHCOYC) and Christ, X = (XPICOTOC).



Late Nite Catechism

March 12th, 2005 @ 6 PM

Christ the King Church

Blessed Mary Kingdome

Cost: \$50

Includes: Happy Hour,

Dinner by Carrabba's &

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Mary and the Muslims

submitted by Nick Winiewicz

In this time of turmoil in the Mid-East, and the deep-rooted hatreds between Muslims* and the West, it is difficult to see a connection between these ancient people and ourselves. But we do share a common bond, one that I was not aware of until reading Bishop Fulton Sheen's book The World's First Love – Mary, the Mother of God¹. First printed in 1952, the words of Bishop Sheen are truer today and point to the fact that we must strengthen our Christianity and increase our prayer. Reprinted below, with the permission of the publisher, is a chapter from that book discussing the view of Mary by the Muslims, and the common bond we share. It is my hope that in reading this, we all pray for peace.

Islam is the only great post-Christian religion of the world. Because it had its origin in the seventh century under Mohammed, it was possible to unite within it some elements of Christianity and of Judaism, along with particular customs of Arabia. Islam takes the doctrine of the unity of God, His Majesty and His Creative Power, and uses it, in part, as a basis for the repudiation of Christ, the Son of God. Misunderstanding the notion of the Trinity, Mohammed made Christ a prophet announcing *him*, just as, to Christians, Isaias and John the Baptist are prophets announcing Christ.

The Christian European West barely escaped destruction at the hands of the Moslems*. At one point they were stopped near Tours, and at another point, later on in time, outside the gates of Vienna. The Church throughout Northern Africa was practically destroyed by Moslem power, and at the present hour the Moslems are beginning to rise again.

If Islam is a heresy, as Hilaire Belloc believes it to be, it is the only heresy that has never declined. Others have had a moment of vigor, then gone into doctrinal decay at the death of the leader, and finally evaporated in a vague social movement. Islam, on the contrary, has only had its first phase. There was never a time in which it declined, either in numbers or in the devotion of its followers.

The missionary effort of the Church toward this group has been, at least on the surface, a failure, for the Moslems are so far almost unconvertible. The reason is that for a follower of Mohammed to become a Christian is much like a Christian becoming a Jew. The Moslems believe that they have the final and definitive revelation of God to the world and that Christ was only a prophet announcing Mohammed, the last of God's real prophets.

At the present time, the hatred in the Moslem countries against the West is becoming a hatred against Christianity itself. Although the statesmen have not yet taken it into account, there is still grave danger that the temporal power of Islam may return and, with it, the menace that it may shake off a West that has ceased to be Christian and affirm itself as a great anti-Christian world power. Moslem writers say, "When the locust swarms darken vast countries, they bear on their wings these Arabic words: 'We are God's host, each of us has ninety-nine eggs, and if we had a hundred, we should lay waste the world with all that is in it.'"

The problem is, How shall we prevent the hatching of the hundredth egg? It is our firm belief that the fears some entertain concerning the Moslems are not to be realized, but that Islam, instead, will eventually be converted to Christianity – and in a way that even some of our missionaries never suspect. It is our belief that this will happen not through the direct teaching of Christianity but through a summoning of the Moslems to a veneration of the Mother of God. This is the line of argument.

The Koran, which is the Bible of the Moslems, has many passages concerning the Blessed Virgin. First of all, the Koran believes in her Immaculate Conception and also in her Virgin Birth. The third chapter of the Koran places the history of Mary's family in a genealogy that goes back through Abraham, Noah, and Adam. When one compares the Koran's description of the birth of Mary with the apocryphal gospel of the birth of Mary, one is tempted to believe that Mohammed very much depended upon the latter. Both books describe the old age and the definite sterility of the mother of Mary. When, however, she conceives, the mother of Mary is made to say in the Koran: "O Lord, I vow and I consecrate to you what is already within me. Accept it from me."

When Mary is born, the mother says: "And I consecrate her with all of her posterity under thy protection, O Lord, against Satan!"

The Koran passes over Joseph in the life of Mary, but the Moslem tradition knows his name and has some familiarity with him. In this tradition, Joseph is made to speak to Mary, who is a virgin. As he inquired how she conceived Jesus without a father, Mary answered: "Do you not know that God, when he created the wheat, had no need of seed, and that God by His power made the trees grow without the help of rain? All that God had to do was to say, 'So be it', and it was done."

The Koran also has verses on the Annunciation, Visitation, and Nativity. Angels are pictured as accompanying the Blessed Mother and saying: "Oh, Mary, God has chosen you and purified you, and elected you above all the women of the earth." In the nineteenth



chapter of the Koran there are forty-one verses on Jesus and Mary. There is such a strong defense of the virginity of Mary here that the Koran, in the fourth book, attributes the condemnation of the Jews to their monstrous calumny against the Virgin Mary.

Mary, then, is for the Moslems the true *Sayyida*, or Lady. The only possible serious rival to her in their creed would be Fatima, the daughter of Mohammed himself. But after the death of Fatima, Mohammed wrote: "Thou shalt be the most blessed of all the women in Paradise, after Mary." In a variant of the text, Fatima is made to say: "I surpass all the women, except Mary."

This brings us to our second point, namely, why the Blessed Mother, in the twentieth century, should have revealed herself in the insignificant little village of Fatima, so that to all future generations she would be known as Our Lady of Fatima. Since nothing ever happens out of Heaven except with a finesse of all details, I believe that the Blessed Virgin chose to be known as "Our Lady of Fatima" as a pledge and a sign of hope to the Moslem people and as an assurance that they, who show her so much respect, will one day accept her Divine Son, too.

Evidence to support these views is found in the historical fact that the Moslems occupied Portugal for centuries. At the time when they were finally driven out, the last Moslem chief had a beautiful daughter by the name of Fatima. A Catholic boy fell in love with her, and for him she not only stayed behind when the Moslems left, but even embraced the Faith. The young husband was so much in love with her that he changed the name of the town where he lived to Fatima. Thus, the very place where Our Lady appeared in 1917 bears a historical connection to Fatima the daughter of Mohammed.

The final evidence of the relationship of the village of Fatima to the Moslems is the enthusiastic reception that the Moslems in Africa and India and elsewhere gave to the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima, as mentioned earlier. Moslems attended the church services in honor of Our Lady; they allowed religious processions and even prayers

before their mosques; and in Mozambique the Moslems, who were unconverted, began to be Christian as soon as the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was erected.

Missionaries in the future will, more and more, see that their apostolate among the Moslems will be successful in the measure that they preach Our Lady of Fatima. Mary is the advent of Christ, bringing Christ to the people before Christ Himself is born. In any apologetic endeavor, it is always best to start with that which people already accept. Because the Moslems have a devotion to Mary, our missionaries should be satisfied merely to expand and to develop that devotion, with the full realization that Our Blessed Lady will carry the Moslems the rest of the way to her Divine Son. She is forever a "traitor" in the sense that she will not accept any devotion for herself, but will always bring anyone who is devoted to her to her Divine Son. As those who lose devotion to her lose belief in the Divinity of Christ, so those who intensify devotion to her gradually acquire that belief.

Many of our great missionaries in Africa have already broken down the bitter hatred and prejudices of the Moslems against the Christians through their acts of charity, their schools and hospitals. It now remains to use another approach, namely, that of taking the forty-first chapter of the Koran and showing them that it was taken out of the Gospel of Luke, that Mary could not be, even in their own eyes, the most blessed of all the women of Heaven if she had not also borne One Who was the Savior of the world. If Judith and Esther of the Old Testament were prefigures of Mary, then it may very well be that Fatima herself was a postfigure of Mary! The Moslems should be prepared to acknowledge that, if Fatima must give way in honor to the Blessed Mother, it is because she is different from all the other mothers of the world and that without Christ she would be nothing.

¹ The World's First Love – Mary the Mother of God, by Fulton J. Sheen reprinted 1996, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, pp. 200-204. Copies can be ordered at <http://www.ignatius.com/> and at 800-651-1531.

*The spelling of *Moslem* may have been correct at the time Bishop Sheen wrote the book. The correct spelling today is *Muslim*. The term "moslem" is used today only by followers of Louis Farakham, a radical dissident.

Men's Cursillo # 91



by Darlene O'Neal

The men's Cursillo # 91 weekend was held in October of 2004. There were many excited men arriving for the send-off from San Jose Catholic Church. This particular weekend a very special man arrived to begin his Cursillo three-day weekend. Bishop Victor Galeone arrived dressed in casual clothes and mixed with the

crowd in the parking lot, chatting while waiting for his ride to Camp St. John.

He gave and received high-fives as he and the other men ran to get on the school bus that took them on their much anticipated journey. Bishop Galeone was known as Bishop Vic for the weekend that he spent with nine other candidates and nineteen team members. Two of our Christ the King parishioners were also there—Mark Renner, candidate and Micah Etheridge, team member. What a blessing for all of these men to share their weekend with the bishop.

When the weekend came to an end and the bus returned to San Jose, the men were greeted by their fellow Cursillistas (one who has gone

through the Cursillo course and follows the method). Cheers and applause rang out in the auditorium when Bishop Galeone shouted "EVERYONE SHOULD ATTEND CURSILLO".

Cursillo is much more than a three-day weekend. The Cursillo Movement is intended to bring about change in our surroundings, whether it be our work place, our families or our social

gatherings. Cursillo is meant to be helpful in our journey to the Father while growing in our life of holiness, formation and evangelization.

After the weekend is over, the new Cursillista begins what is called the Fourth Day. This is, in reality, the rest of your life. Each week, you meet with several other Cursillistas to share and maintain your spirituality. This group becomes like family and knows whatever is discussed stays within the group. The group is for support and encouragement in their walk with the Lord. Each month, these groups meet at what is called an Ultreya, to bring them together as an evangelizing community.

For men and women at Christ the King who have not made their Cursillo and are interested in attending call Carl Ludwig at 724-8485 or ask around. There may be a few Cursillistas nearby that would be happy to answer any questions.

In December, the Advent Ultreya was held at St. Paul's at the beach. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Galeone with several other priests attending. The participants spoke in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Afterwards, a fiesta was held in the hall.

OLE !

How Father Morgan Discovered His Vocation



by Father Terry Morgan

As few priests will admit, except under duress or payoff, I "played Mass" when I was a kid. Jerry Weedon and I would take turns being server and priest. The priest got to wear as his vestment a huge beach towel, worn over the shoulder and back like a cape. The server got to lift the "chasuble" whenever the priest genuflected. (And we worked a couple of extra genuflections into the normal Mass: it was so cool!)

One day Jerry and I got to the dank old sacristy of our parish church (Christ the King, in Arlington) early for our job as servers, so early that we were the only two people in the entire church. While we weren't able to don any towels, and certainly didn't have the nerve to put on any real vestments, we did have that lovely vesting table as our altar, so we pretend-held the pretend-cape at the times of the genuflections.

Into the sacristy, on tiptoes, came Sister Mary Gerald, principal of the school. Before we even had a chance to be mortified (or at least to start making up some cockamamie story), Sister Gerald said, "Oh, how lovely, two of our finest students preparing to be priests. And how wonderful it would be for young Gerald to become Father Gerald. I've never had a priest named after me."

Young Gerald became a lawyer. Young Terry was so miffed at barely getting Honorable Mention in Sister's "vocation compliment" that he would have entered the seminary that very day, but they didn't take fourth graders.

Both Jerry Weedon and Terry Morgan trace at least a small part of their answering God's call — he to law and being a great husband and dad, and I to being a priest — to that hilarious moment at Christ the King.

Ten days ago, I had the privilege of burying Sister Mary Gerald, who changed her name back to her baptismal name — Sister Margaret Marie O'Flaherty — when the option was given thirty years ago. At her wake, mighty stories were told of Sister Mary Gerald's great humor, keen insight, and endless facility for treating each student as if he or she were the only student she ever had.

With no disrespect for Sister Mary Gerald, though, you could tell the same mighty stories about almost every retired sister we have down St. George Street at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph. That is the legacy that the sisters leave to our Catholic Schools in Florida. Even as their

ranks are thinning, the lay teachers to whom we entrust our kids for so many hours of each day have "caught" that basic difference of Catholic School education, and is still so evident in the work that they do these days.

They have "caught" the idea of personalized education, even in classes that are challengingly large. They have "caught" their role — their primary role — as being second teachers of the Faith (hand in hand with the first teachers of the Faith, our parents).

And they have "caught" an eye for the Holy Spirit at work, mysteriously but powerfully in the lives of our children. Our teachers name that Spirit for our kids, as they see the Holy Spirit active in a unique way in each kid's life.

All teachers in all schools, public and private, do noble work, for slave's wages. But while a public school teacher identifies and nurtures "potential," a Catholic school teacher takes note of and nurtures the spark of divine life in a child.

Years ago, I asked Maria, a teacher-friend of mine, how her two kids turned out so strong, gentle, religious, intelligent, truthful, and even fun. She told me that from the day she and her husband first handled them in the hospital, all through their infancy, whenever they cuddled them and caressed them, they repeated over and over again, "You are a temple of the Holy Spirit."

"They don't even know what the words mean when they are 'little blobs of baby,'" she said, "But they know they are special, not just to us, but to God. As they grew

older, we kept saying it to them — dozens of times a day some days — reminding them of the basic truth about who they are.

"When they were teens, whenever we'd get to an impasse in an argument, I'd say, 'Look me in the eye. Who are you? What are you?' And they'd remember, despite the lies of the media, the lies of some of their friends, even the lies of some adults: they were God's precious, holy children. They were temples of the Holy Spirit."

I hope that all of our parents tell their kids the truth, and only the truth, like that. And as pastor, if I am charged with anything by God, it is reminding our teachers over and over and over again that they should teach truths about history, truths about math, truths about English with great diligence, but they must always guard and cherish and repeat and repeat again the basic truth about who our children are.

Catholic Schools Week is a great week to celebrate that basic truth, and to recommit ourselves to being Sister Mary Gerald's, tiptoeing constantly into the lives of our kids, taking careful note of their precious gifts, and prodding them gently to hear God's call to holiness.

Dear God:

*I didn't think orange
went with purple until I
saw the sunset You
made on Tuesday.
That was cool.*

My Phone Company Does WHAT?

Opinion

by Frank Becht

Does your phone company support Abortion or Pornography?

In recent years we've heard much about corporate America "cooking the books". What we're not hearing in the news today is that our phone companies may be giving funds in support of the "Culture of Death."

AT&T and MCI, to name just two, have made more than one billion dollars from Dial-a Porn lines in 2002. It has been documented that all major carriers fund politicians who support abortion and organizations like N.O.W. and Planned Parenthood, both of which openly support killing the unborn. Two other companies, SBC Communications and Verizon, have matched employee donations to Planned Parenthood. It is reported that Verizon advertises on anti-family television shows. All of the above mentioned companies including Bell South sponsor GLBT (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender) employee groups within their companies.

It is estimated that there are over 400,000 obscenity sites in America. This is not by accident; this is a planned thing by the major pornographers to make it so prolific that people say, "what can we do about it."

This has become such a noticeable problem that the Fiscal Office of the Diocese of St. Augustine has recently updated its list of restricted stocks not to be purchased in the handling of Diocesan affairs. In addition to others America Online Time Warner is included.

Why Catholics are losing the Culture War.

1970's Abortion
 1990's Dial-a-Porn
 2000's Gay Marriage
 2010's ??? Christianity is in a world crisis. Not only is our life here in America in jeopardy but life in Europe and the whole world is at risk. Are we hungry enough and desperate enough to change our cultural trends?

What is our option?

The facts as outlined above are very disturbing for such a vital service and facility used by every person and family. Even the purchase of mutual funds as opposed to the purchase of stocks is not uncomplicated for mutual funds are made up of a broad spectrum of stocks.

SIENNA COMMUNICATIONS, a Catholic phone company, offers a partial answer. Sienna is a Catholic owned and operated phone company dedicated to promoting Catholic and Pro-Life causes. In addition, Sienna will contribute a percentage of your monthly bill to the charity of your choice.

Call toll free 1-877-474-3662 for your personal option.

Choosing Sienna as your phone company can help restore Catholic Culture in America. Obtain a copy of the OSV (*Our Sunday Visitor*).

Source information can be obtained from Sienna Communications or by reading the monthly advertisement on the rear page of Our Sunday Visitor

God Always Answers Prayers

When the idea is not right, God says, "No"

No - when the idea is not the best
 No - when the idea is absolutely wrong
 No - when although it may help you it could create problems for someone else.

When the time is not right, God says, "Slow"

What a catastrophe it would be if God answered every prayer at the snap of your fingers. Do you know what would happen? God would become your servant, not your master. Suddenly God would be working for you instead of you working for God.

Remember : God's delay is not God's denial
 God's timing is perfect
 Patience is what we need in prayer

When you are not right, God says, "Grow"

The selfish person must grow in unselfishness
 The cautious person must grow in courage
 The timid person must grow in confidence
 The dominating person must grow in sensitivity
 The critical person must grow in tolerance
 The negative person must grow in positive attitudes
 The pleasure-seeking person must grow in compassion for suffering people

When everything is all right, God says, "Go"

Then miracles happen
 A hopeless alcoholic is set free
 A drug addict finds release
 A doubter becomes a child in his belief
 Diseased tissue responds to treatment, and healing begins
 The door to your dream suddenly swings open
 And there stands God saying, "Go!"

Faith Sharing, Small Groups

by Claretta Lamusga

"Faith Sharing" was first designated as a "Renew" program. I think it was in 1984 that my husband, Harry, and I first joined a Renew group in Timonium, Maryland where we lived at the time. In 1986 we moved to Jacksonville and became members of Christ the King Church. We were barely settled in our new home in Alderman Park when a neighbor, Joan Voor, called to invite us to join the Renew group that she and her husband, Bernie belonged to. The Bechts and the Voors were the first facilitators for this group.

About six years ago the name was changed to "Faith Sharing." Our groups meet during Lent and Advent for six weeks each time. Some of the groups study the liturgical readings for the next Sunday.

Others study more topical material and we are all encouraged to delve deeper into the subject matter to better understand our faith.

For me, I enjoy faith sharing more than I do the adult education classes (also held twice a year but not at the same time). Over the years our group has become an extended family. We are comfortable with each other so we are not afraid to say what we feel or have learned about the subject matter. We also are there for one another in times of crisis, sit together at Mass, and participate at social functions together.

I feel that Adult Education is more like going to school, where you sit and listen and then break into groups to discuss what was taught. I don't have time to join every ministry so I have chosen to stay with "Faith Sharing".



Rose Marie Sudoff, Helen Ramos, Dolores Bianco and Pat Setser

A Great Time Was Had by All

RCIA 2004 - 2005



by George Olin Middleton

My wife and I received an invitation to attend a party to be held on December 22, 2004, at the Mudville Grille at St. Nicholas, honoring Monsignor Mortimer Danaher on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

We did not hesitate in accepting this invitation because we had attended Monsignor's 74th birthday celebration and had a wonderful time. We knew we would enjoy this one, too.

This year's party was a great success. I should say it was a stupendous success.

As everyone gathered around Monsignor to offer congratulations, a figure on a scooter burst through the crowd and scooted up to the honoree. It was the Jaguars mascot, Jaxon deVille. The crowd was delighted, and the look on Monsignor's face was one of utter disbelief.

Jaxon deVille opened up a goodie bag he carried and

presented Monsignor with mementos of the occasion: t-shirts, pictures, and other memorabilia.

Then he autographed photos for the party guests. I received one addressed to me personally. I took it home and told my son - a great Jaguars fan - that I would let him see it if he promised not to be jealous and if he promised not to smudge it or get fingerprints on it. He grinned, but I think deep down he was just a little bit jealous.

It was a wonderful party and a great surprise for Monsignor. He enjoyed it thoroughly. I would not hesitate to say that maybe it was the highlight of his 75 years.



by Darlene O'Neal

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a welcoming ministry for adults interested in learning about the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to provide information and instruction to inquiring adults, both baptized and non-baptized. After months of sessions and a Day of Discernment, these adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

The first RCIA session for 2004 - 2005 began on September 22, 2004 after three inquiry sessions. Though this class is smaller than in previous years, the enthusiasm from the candidates is matched by the team members and director. The weekly sessions have been very productive as Father Richard Perko brings his knowledge to the class and provides the group with interesting history lessons about the Catholic Church. This year, the class of 2004 - 2005 is fortunate to have a dedicated director, James Scott, along with team members John Anderson, Roz Balsam, Mary Rouse, Norma and Berry Landers, Tony Zeaiter, Imogene Praxades, Micah Etheridge, Mitch Gable, Louie and Darlene O'Neal, Carlos Thompson and Marshall Enrique.

By the time this issue of the Courier is printed, the RCIA class will have completed a lot of preparation, such as visiting and learning about the physical makeup of the church as well as the spiritual aspects of the traditions and sacraments of the church. They have gone through the Rites of Acceptance and Welcome, experienced Advent and Christmas and most attended the annual RCIA Christmas party. On February 20th they will have traveled to the Cathedral in St. Augustine to be with the Bishop for the Rite of Sending.



by Carol-Ann Black

Have you noticed a lot more smiling faces around Christ the King lately? Are there more faces or more smiles or both? And why, do you suppose? In my occasionally humble opinion, I believe that it has to do with the fact that we have been getting to know each other a little better.

We have had greeters at Mass on a more regular basis—who smile. We've celebrated Christmas with the most beautiful music and fabulous mountain of Advent Tree Gifts. That makes all of us smile. Put lots of grins on lots of expectant faces. We have welcomed a major new ministry, the Fil-Am Ministry, which draws a large number of families into the active arc of activity here at Christ the King. That calls for smiles of

congratulation to those involved. And we celebrated our Fourth Annual Epiphany Dinner in January with smiling cooks serving up splendid ethnic foods to happy consumers and the new Fil-Am singing group to entertain.

All of this cheerful activity springs from a renewed sense of stewardship that is growing here. It isn't an accident or just good fortune. It is related to the renewed



Stewardship In the News!

effort of the Stewardship Committee. Your committee is working very hard to facilitate the smooth operation of our many ministries, and to offer its appreciation for all the hard work that these ministries perform. Our most recent efforts are directed at helping the various ministries make

themselves more known and accessible to our parishioners. This effort will take the form of the Ministry of the Week, wherein each ministry will make a presentation



to the parish immediately after Mass, before dismissal. We're talking two minutes, perhaps, and a presence in the gathering area afterward. Stop and meet a few new smiles.

Another facet of the renewed stewardship effort, was the commitment of our financial pledges to the integrity and generosity of our Christ the King parishioners. For those of you who were unable to attend the Mass before the 50th Anniversary Dinner, understand that all of the pledge cards were burned after Mass out at the Crucifix. Our financial commitments are between ourselves and our God. The gifts we receive from God are limitless, and our sharing of those gifts with His people is to be a joy. More smiles all around.

Gem

The Conlins

Gem

by Frank Becht

When one talks about the founding families of Christ the King, one of the first names mentioned is always CONLIN.

Peter Conlin, also known as Pete, was born to an Irish family in Long Island, New York on March 10, 1919. His parents were Peter A. Conlin, Jr. and Elizabeth Zeig, also of New York. Pete is the oldest of four with one brother and two sisters. After graduating from public school, he served as a radioman in the U.S. Army on the Aleutian Islands. After service, he returned to New York where he went to work as a truancy officer in the public school system where his father worked. He also worked for a funeral home for a short while before going to work for the R.C.A. Service Corporation.

Eleanor Dick Conlin was born in Arverne, New York and after graduating from public school she worked for the Chase Manhattan Bank until the birth of her first child.

Pete and Eleanor met on a blind date at The W.T. Grant Co. store, which was arranged by friends. They were married on May 15, 1942 at St. Gertrude Catholic Church in Long Island, New York. Their first three children, Patricia, Peter IV, and Denis were born in New York. They moved to Jacksonville in 1952 as result of a transfer by R.C. A. Service Co. They first lived in the Riverside area where they attended St. Paul's Riverside. Patricia attended school at Assumption, St. Paul's and graduated from Immaculate Conception. In 1954 they moved to Arlington and to Oak Summit Drive in 1957.

Pete and Eleanor had a family of five marvelous children: Patricia, unmarried, living in Jacksonville graduated from Immaculate Conception and Bishop Kenny; Peter IV, married, lives in Cummins, Georgia, has two children, graduated from Christ the King and Bishop Kenny; Denis, married, lives in Lilburn, Georgia, has two children and two step-children, graduated from Christ the King and Bishop Kenny; Kevin, married, lives in Gainesville, Florida, has two children, graduated from Christ the King and Bishop Kenny; Michael, married, lives in Jacksonville, has two children, graduated from Christ the King and Terry Parker. There are eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, two great grandchildren and five step-great grandchildren in the family.

After working for R.C.A. Service Co for several years, Pete and a friend decided to go into business for themselves as Allied-Conlin Communications; shortly



Peter and Eleanor Conlin

after it became Conlin Communications, which he operated until June 1985 when the business was sold. Pete died on March 16, 1986 and is buried at Chapel Hills Memory Gardens.

Eleanor was a housewife until 1968; raising her five children was her priority. In 1968, she went to work as a full time parish secretary at Christ the King where she worked for 30 years. For this faithful, dedicated service, she received an apostolic blessing from Pope John Paul II, which was presented to her by former Pastors Bishop Bob Baker and Monsignor Mortimer Danaher. An interesting note about Eleanor is that she did not drive. As a result, she had a difficult time getting to and from Christ the King. Husband Pete went to work early; often his business did not allow him to take her to work or bring her home, so

frequently she rode on the handle-bars of son Peter's bicycle.

Pete Conlin was an unusually hard worker at whatever he did, whether it was for his business or for his church. From the beginning of Christ the King till his death he was one that worked incessantly for his fellow man and the Church. He was involved with all of the fund raising drives and census taking programs of early Christ the King. He was President of the Holy Name Society, an original member of Nocturnal Adoration formed in 1962. He became a Knight of Columbus when Arlington Council was formed in 1959, and later became the third grand knight of Arlington Council 4727; then he became a fourth degree member of the Ponce De Leon Assembly. He was an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was one of the original Eucharistic ministers and a lector. If there was a church bazaar, Knights of Columbus affair or a school function, he was there cooking or whatever the occasion called for. Bingo of course and a money counter; there was little that he was not involved in. An interesting fact was that Pete attended the 12:10 Mass daily at Immaculate Conception where he was one of the original Knights of the Altar

“Bloom where you are planted. Pete Conlin was planted here; this is where he bloomed.”

Conlin was planted here; this is where he bloomed.”

Eleanor is equally well-known for her hard work and service to others. Having been presented with the Apostolic Blessing by Pope John Paul II is ample evidence. After retiring, she continued to volunteer at Christ the King working two days a week handling the finances of the parish. She was considered an exceptional “care giver” even before she was

married; she cared for Pete's parents and grandparents in New York and here in Jacksonville. Eleanor was very active in the American Cancer Society and was presented “The Josephine Bryan Award” for her efforts. She was the co-ordinator of transportation at Shands Hospital for patients needing a way to and from treatment. In spite of caring for her large family and her demanding work at Christ the King, she found time to assist in many school functions including bake sales, bingo, bazaars, and the like. She was also an original active member of the Guild in Circle 5. Eleanor died on July 1, 2002 and is also buried at Chapel Hills Memory Gardens.

In the first 50 years of Christ the King, there have been many outstanding individuals and families who have contributed much to the growth and success of the Parish. We look forward to the next 50 years and many new and dedicated members.

We might well consider Pete and Eleanor Conlin as “Mr. and Mrs. Christ the King” for the first 50 years. They have been exemplary church members and an exemplary family!



Patricia Conlin

The information for this article was obtained from the oldest Conlin child, Patricia, who continues to live in the family homestead on Oak Summit Drive, Jacksonville.

Conlin Family
40th Wedding Anniversary 5/12/82

Left to right:
Denis
Heather - granddaughter
Michael
Peter V - grandson
Amy - granddaughter
Kevin
“Eleanor”
Venessa - granddaughter
Peter IV
“Peter”
Clint - grandson
Patricia
Tracy - granddaughter



Why does God Keep Me Here?

by Ray Walker

Nancy died on July 14, 1994, just six days after her 102nd birthday. Every Thursday for over nine years I had brought the Blessed Sacrament to her in the Northside nursing home where she resided and time after time as she became more feeble, she would ask, "Why does God keep me here? What kind of life is mine? Why don't he let me go?"

Try as I did, I never could come up with a plausible answer for her. She was so pathetic; I felt so sorry for her. But, nothing I could think of made any sense, at least, not until she died and I was asked to deliver the eulogy at her funeral Mass.

Nancy was born in Laurenzana, Italy and came to Jacksonville, a 19 year old young lady in 1911. Her family settled in the rural area of Dinsmore on the north side of the River City which had quite an enclave of other Italian immigrants at the time. In due time, she met Tony, also from Italy, in the region and they were married.

During my several hundred visits to Nancy, she told me countless stories of her early life in America. The hardships those people went through would tear your heart out. After getting their own little piece of land, she and Tony began subsistence farming. First, they needed a cow and a horse but could only scrape up

enough money for one and reluctantly chose the former. However, land first had to be ploughed. There was no way Tony, a small man, could push the blade of the plough through the soil without help so Nancy, literally, became the horse to help pull. This sounds unbelievably cruel until you realize it took a lot less strength to pull the plough than it did to guide and wrestle it through the coarse, virgin soil. She eventually suffered a double hernia from her efforts. They raised enough food for themselves and some additional to sell at the market. These and many other stories she would tell me over and over again.

When I began Nancy's eulogy, I recalled how difficult it had been for me to have to sit there and repeatedly listen to these tales in decidedly broken English. Often I wished I could have just gotten up and walked out. Now it was beginning to dawn on me why God was keeping Nancy here. Having to go through this trial every Thursday for nine years and NOT WALKING AWAY I realized made a much better Christian out of me.

"Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or naked and clothe you...? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of

these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:37-40

Nancy was in her own prison and I visited her in her prison and, in doing so, visited the Lord. It was my opportunity to see Jesus, face to face on earth and serve Him.

Frances, another Italian member of our parish, as busy as she was with her own family, regularly took the time to make a special soup that Nancy loved and brought it to her. Was Frances not feeding the Lord?

How many times did Helga come to visit Nancy and comb her hair and do her nails? Surely she was visiting the Lord when He was a stranger in a strange place.

Another parish member had been a friend and a regular visitor even before I got involved. Many times she bought shoes and clothes for Nancy over the years and did her laundry every week. She found the Lord in need of clothes and clothed Him.

Jewel's service goes back further than all of us and she had been a loyal friend, not only to Nancy but also to her husband, Tony, when he was alive. She did everything she could to make the Lord, a stranger from a foreign land, feel welcome and at home.

I remember when Nancy turned 100. On that day I went to visit her at the nursing home only to find out she had been taken to the hospital the night before with congestive heart failure. I immediately went to

the hospital where she was in Intensive Care. I was allowed in to see her for a brief moment and to my astonishment, the nurses were gathered around her bed with a small birthday cake and candles. It was such a marvelous demonstration of love. They had learned it was her 100th birthday and had a party for her in an area where you cannot even bring a flower to a patient. The Lord was being served and honored again.

Even though my friend, Nancy, thought of the latter part of her life as useless and wasted, she was, indeed, a blessing to many of us. She brought all of us as close to God as most of us will ever get on earth. Someone once said that the poor need the rich to provide for them and take care of them. Conversely, and probably more important, the rich need the poor because without being able to share their bounty with them, many affluent people would have a difficult time getting into heaven (remember the camel and the eye of the needle?)

If we live long enough any of us could face Nancy's situation. We need to remember that the poor, the needy and the sick are all here for a purpose. In God's divine plan, how we react to these "least brothers of mine" may determine whether or not we receive our own passport to heaven.

The Listener

by Corinne Elyse Lightfoot



Not everyone has a tale to tell
Of what passed before them
In recent life.

Not everyone can speak for hours
On any subject at need.

To those who are gifted with such
An ability,
Heed my words.
Use it well.

For one day you may find yourself alone,
With want of the most valuable partner
In a conversation,
The Listener.

Christian Journey



photo by Bill Coppedge

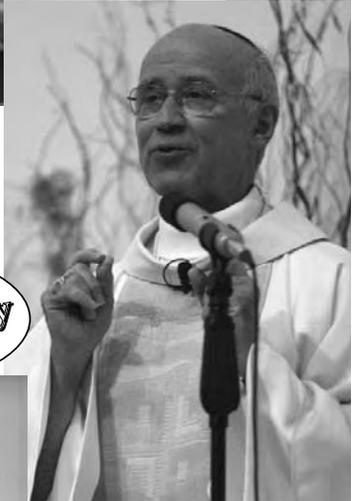
by Bill Coppedge

Christ the King's Adult Education Ministry just finished a study on the Gospel of Matthew entitled "Journey to the Kingdom and the Glory." At the beginning of the meeting presentations were made by different committee members who have spent many hours in preparation. Attendees were then given questions for small group discussions, with their answers being presented to the whole group. Our meetings were in a relaxed environment which allows everyone to participate, have some fun, while we deepen our faith. I believe it is a great way to develop Christian fellowship.

As a "Core Team Member" in this program, I have developed a better understanding as to what it means to be a Catholic and a Christian. *I realized that in order to be my best, just attending Sunday Mass was not enough.* It requires a commitment to be a more active member in our church. The book of Matthew tells us that Christ expects us to live our everyday lives as Christians, to set an example for all whom we encounter. Jesus tells us that it is not an easy journey. Jesus also tells us that "You are the light of the world" not to be hidden but placed on a stand. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

All, from early adult age to seniors are encouraged to attend future meetings and be more active with our church and our own Christian journey. Look for dates to the fall session in your bulletin. This is a great way to meet and welcome new people, visit with those we already know and walk with Jesus.

September 26,
2004



50th
Anniversary



Hurricanes couldn't
stop our parish from
celebrating our
Golden Jubilee



50th



50th



Liturgical celebration photos by Tim Yocum



50th



November 21, 2004

50th



50th



50th Anniversary





by Peter House

The real essence of stewardship is a giving of oneself. Whether it is time, talent, or treasure is not immediately important. What is important is to give

Stewardship ~ The Act of Giving

of yourself in ways which will help others even though there may be no benefit to you and maybe even a small or significant cost to you! The cost will be only temporary and will always pay off in the long run of living your life.

Giving of yourself can be as simple and easy as putting money in a collection envelope or as complex as committing to join the Holy Orders! Neither is superior to the other and both can help you cement your relationship with God.

Every one of us has a talent to give to our parish community. We can individually contribute to the overall growth and strength of our extended family which is the Catholic Faith. As a member of our church, we are called to share of ourselves and invest our time, treasure, and talent. To be a member of the church implies a responsibility to share our bounty which has been supplied to us by God.

Maybe you have a special talent you can share

with us as an artist, teacher, engineer, landscaper, or typist. Your unique talent would surely be greatly welcomed and think of the great satisfaction you would receive from only spending an hour a week helping out. If you have children, think of the example this would set for them. In fact maybe you could bring your children with you to help if appropriate. This is surely a win-win situation for you, your family, and your parish community.

As Christian stewards, we try to work as an

instrument of God. In all aspects of life we should cheerfully give of ourselves. Stewardship does not only happen while we are at the church or in the church school. Stewardship is a way of life, and only by forethought and careful consideration can we decide to live our lives as God intended.

Please let your love of Jesus guide you in your stewardship journey.

Halloween ~ Night

by Carol-Ann Black

Halloween began for Christ the King families on the 23rd of October right after the 5:00pm Mass. The Kingdome was the setting for the family party, and a great party it was. The MOMS ministry did the planning and the organizing. They were aided and abetted by the Boy Scouts who were doing an overnight camp on the baseball field. The Scouts helped to supervise the games that the children so enjoy.

Of course there were some wonderful costumes and a few were specially recognized: The Yates family—Sonia and Ron and four children—were the

cleverest family group. They were dressed as a Royal Family—all the way down to the tiny one in a stroller.

The Lynch brothers were most original in their robot get up. Cathy Considine came as Joan of Arc. And in three age groups we had the following winners: a hunter—Emmit Rice; Kelly Wolf as Carmen Miranda (remember her dancing beneath the fruit basket hat?); and that bag of jelly beans was Zachary Dodge.

Each one was hugely clever. The family Halloween party is looking to become a Christ the King tradition. So we can happily plan our costumes for next year. "Um, I wonder what I'll be?"



St Bernadette's Christmas Party



by Jane Mead

On 17 December, members and spouses of the Council of Catholic Women's St. Bernadette Circle gathered for their annual Christmas party at the beautifully decorated home of Natalie and Nick Winiewicz in Queen's Harbor. All of us had a great time! And how could we not? The camaraderie was marvelous, our covered-dish dinner was fabulous and abundant, and the entertainment was worthy of Broadway jeers—oops—of course, I meant to say cheers!

Santa Claus paid us a visit, galloping in on the most famous reinder of all, Rudolph. Santa looked remarkably like Ruth Gunther. Rudolph appeared to have lost a great deal of

weight; in fact, you could say he was thin as a stick.

Next on stage were Raggedy Ann and Andy (alias, Frank Gunther as Ann and Trudy Cameron as Andy). Yes, you read that correctly—Frank Gunther as Ann and Trudy as Andy. These two madcaps had quite a little tussle over the toys under the Christmas tree until peace reigned. Frank's bright red tights were to die for, but both Ann and Andy were having a REALLY bad hair day!

And who was that lady with the long black hair, minus her front teeth, who lisped her way through the song "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth!" Could it have been our very own Auntie Mame, Claretta Lamusga? For sure, it was Claretta who exuberantly pantomimed the song

"Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." We laughed uproariously!

There was more laughter when Cass Casterlin treated us to a rollicking, nonpareil rendition of the Hokey-Pokey. Ooh-la-la! And what St. Bernadette Party would be complete without our resident storyteller, Bishop Danese, who regaled us with several hilarious tales. Father Carr and Nick Winiewicz added a few good vignettes of their own.

It was a wonderful, lighthearted evening, which we ended on a more serious note by singing carols around the Christmas tree. Our thanks go to the Winiewiczs' for being such welcoming, gracious hosts. Thanks as well to Father Carr for braving an evening of our escapades.

Ministry of the Week



by Debbie House

Have you ever wondered just what all those ministries listed in the bulletin are all about; what they actually do? We get some idea at the Time and Talent Fair and from articles in the Courier and the weekly CTK Bulletin. However, for some I haven't a clue. In the past, ministries have not had the opportunity to speak at Mass. Well, folks, here's our chance. Recently, Father Thanh has agreed to allow the various ministries up to two minutes after Communion to "feature" a ministry.

If you belong to a ministry and feel called to promote it, please contact your leader about speaking on their behalf. This is an opportunity to witness the fruits of your labor of love and to inform the parish about your ministry. The speaker does not have to be the

leader and you may use different speakers for different Masses. Father Thanh encourages us to cover all the Masses for our "featured" weekend.

We have a wonderful community here at Christ the King, and there is a great deal of talent and interest waiting to be "called." Sometimes it takes a face smiling and a voice speaking to hear the Lord's call. Don't miss this opportunity to spark someone's interest in your ministry. Not only do you have the opportunity to speak, but you may share information via posters or flyers in the gathering area or in the Shirley David Hall. A powerpoint presentation can also be used, and we can offer some assistance with that if needed. Articles in the Courier and the Bulletin are encouraged.

When you get involved, you feel more connected to your community, and the Lord truly blesses you. Thank you for your support and may God bless our home here at Christ the King.

We are excited about this "Ministry of the Week" plan. If you have any questions please call Debbie at 725-1097 (email: debbiehouse@centricsystems.com) or Carol-Ann at 221-2642 (email: cakblack@comcast.net).

Courier Christmas Party



by Holly Nicks

It was billed as a "Special Event," and it certainly was a special night.

The Courier staff and the Adult Choir of the Music ministry met for the annual Courier Christmas dinner party at the home of two very generous people, John and Mickey Kenny on December 30, 2004. This was the first time that the Courier played host to another ministry of Christ the King.

The evening began with Mass celebrated in the library by Father Neil Carr and Father Thanh Nguyen. Father Carr gave the homily about the importance of

family today and Christmas hymns were sung during the Mass.

After Mass, the feasting began! Everyone was asked to bring their favorite dish to share, and there was everything from succulent beef, stuffed grape leaves, super hot sausages to wonderful desserts.

The conversation was just as varied, ranging from politics to Louisiana jambalaya. Father Richard Perko was also able to attend and share the food as well as the conversation. We were entertained on the piano by Nathaniel and George, the twin boys of Nicole and George Hale.

It was a wonderful night! Can't wait until next year!

Cruisin' On With Those Queens and Kings

by Barbara Hanuscin
- Vice President

"A real live wire group" was a phrase used to describe Christ the King's Queens and Kings Social Ministry. The phrase can be found in the fall 2004 issue of the Mature Matters magazine. How's that for publicity and the group wasn't seeking it! Word is getting around about the wonderful fellowship enjoyed by those who have recently joined the Queens and Kings group. Of course, that's not a secret nor is it a surprise to those members who had a part in founding the organization 25 years ago. There have been a few changes over the years: and the membership age is now 50 and up and it is open to all denominations.

In October, 2004, the group took a cruise to Key West and Nassau in the Bahamas aboard the Carnival cruise ship Celebration. What a celebration it was! It was so thrilling for all as the ship cruised out of Jacksonville and passed beneath the Dames Point bridge. The suspense from the optical illusion that it would be a tight squeeze added to the thrill. A good time was had by all.

The cruising group consisted of 101 folks from the Catholic, Baptist and Methodist churches. There were even out-of-towners from as far as Michigan and Texas who came to join the cruise. The food was fabulous as it always is on cruises. The wait staff made dining such fun and a real event - especially when they all started dancing.

Of course Christ the King's group are great participators and weren't about to be outdone. Thanks go to Claretta Lamusga, Al Martin, Bernie Voor, Emilia Hubbard and several others for representing us in that area. Members of the group wanted to stay healthy and not gain a pound from the wonderful food. Jan and Sam Clements could be found working out in the gym and Judy Koziolk was observed power-walking a few laps on the deck. Some of us took a long soak in the hot tub after a long walk while on shore. Daisy MacDonald was the lucky winner of a prize one of the nights and was found in the ship's store trying to decide what piece of jewelry to select. Jerry Seifried, Audrey Alexander, Ann Seravo and

several others were observed at the slot machines at times. Pauline decided to literally slide (on the deck) during the electric slide line dance. She was such a good sport and luckily was not injured.

Some of the shore activities were a tour of Key West aboard the "Conch Train", and sightseeing at Sloppy Joe's bar, which Ernest Hemingway once frequented. There was also Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville. Wanda and Al Martin were spotted through the window of one establishment as they sipped on a cool drink. The Key West lighthouse stood so stately. Ruth Fitzgerald and family found some interesting stained glass windows in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Hard Rock Cafe was another popular stop. In Nassau some of the group boarded a ferry boat to tour Atlantis, a fabulous hotel with an absolutely wonderful seaquarium. Bernie Voor and Emilia Hubbard shook hands with some of the starfish in a hands-on exhibit. Of course, in both places some of the ladies shopped until they about dropped! So many things to do and so little time!

On board activities were the shows, ice carving demonstrations, trivia challenges, blackjack tournament, art sales, music and dancing, and, of course, the casino gambling, to name a few. Friendships were made by many during the five days and there was a bit of a sad note that it had come to a close.

President Bill Campbell deserves a "hat's off" for a job well done. Bill handled all behind the scenes preparations over the preceding eight months including signing people up, canceling, multiple phone calls regarding the cruise, and people who had previously canceled but now again wanting to go at the last minute. Bill was such a good sport through it all and by his leadership the Queens and Kings were able to present a check in the amount of \$880.00 from proceeds of the sale of each booking. Many folks come up and ask, "When's the next cruise?" Stay tuned to the activities of the Queens and Kings to find out, or better yet, join us on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Shirley David Hall at Christ the King.

Christ the King *Barrio Fiesta* 2004



by Imogene T. Praxedes

The mission statement of Christ the King Catholic Church declares that as a community its duty is to help each other experience Christ as the center of our lives and to know that we are destined for external life with our God. As this parish celebrates its fiftieth anniversary the Philippine-American parishioners recognized that stewardship meant sharing their time, their talent, and their treasure with all the members of this parish. As a result, they took it upon themselves to "share their spirit and their story" on August 15, 2004 by showcasing their hospitality, spirituality, culture and Filipino heritage with a barrio fiesta (town festival).



Fiestas are wonderful celebrations. They are usually held in honor of the Virgin Mary or a beloved saint. The church bells are heard miles away to call the devotees to Mass. After Mass a procession is held wherein the statue of the Virgin or the patron saint is proudly paraded throughout the town.



Our fiesta was held on the Feast Day of the Assumption of The Virgin Mary. The Philippines is a country with a wonderful devotion to Our Lady. I hope you were fortunate to see the various statues of our Mother displayed at the gathering area. They were:

- Our Lady of Manaoag
- Ina Poonbato (our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage)
- Our Lady of Penafrancia
- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Our Lady of Fatima
- Our Lady of Lourdes

These are just a few of the names attributed to Our Lady. The Virgin Mother is loved by many Filipinos and many miracles are accredited to her. Fiestas are a yearly event that have been passed down through many generations.

How delightful to see many join our procession after the noon Mass! What a joy to see so many wearing traditional Filipino attire. I was so proud to see such camaraderie among my kababayans (compatriots). I would like to acknowledge Father Perko for being such a trooper in leading the procession in the heat and the chaos. We promise it will be better next time. We are grateful to everyone who joined the procession.

As the processional weaved its way to the parish hall all the statues were placed on the table at the back of the room and the children were asked to offer their flowers to the Virgin.

There were so many guests that the food lines stretched from the front of the room to the back. Filipinos love to have a good time so we had entertainment that consisted of native Philippine

dances and singing of Philipino songs. We also wanted to introduce our young, talented singers who are products of Christ the King School and they were, Armon Antolin, Jerly Asunto, Colleen Doherty, and Noelle Solis.

Entertainment was plentiful while everyone enjoyed the native Philippine dishes consisting of **steamed rice**, **lechos** (roast pig), **pancit** (rice noodles) and **menudo** (diced pork with potatoes and chickpeas) and **lumpiang shanghai** (eggrolls).

There were desserts made of sweet rice and coconut milk. There



arts and craft table, capiz lanterns and the capiz chandelier exposed everyone to the creativity and resourcefulness of the Philippine ingenuity.



The success of the day would not have been possible if it hadn't been for the spirit of oneness and unity of our kababayans. **Maraming salamat (thank you very much)** for your help, your enthusiasm, and pakikisama.

I believe our Fiesta was a wonderful opportunity to expose the younger Filipino-Americans to another aspect of the Filipino culture aside from the ones that they are already exposed to: respect for elders, hard work, strong family ties, and devotion to the Catholic faith.

Father Thanh, thank you for allowing the Philippine-American community to share our spirit and our story. You have not only allowed us to share them with all the parishioners but you have also given us an avenue that will help us instill in our children the best of their cultural heritage, God, family and country.

Mabuhay ang Parokya ng Christ the King. (Long live the parish of Christ the King).

were also cake rolls called piononos.

Beverages provided were melon juice and sago/gulaman (tapioca pearls in syrup).

It was truly a day to remember. How could we not feel the fiesta atmosphere when all the decorations contributed to the festive ambience. The Philippine flag, pennants, banana tree, posters,

Evelyn Guilfoyle



by Frank Becht

Evelyn Guilfoyle is well known to many of our Christ the King graduates. She graduated from St. Joseph's Grade School and Bishop McDonald High School in Brooklyn, New York. Her first marriage was to Richard McGowan and they produced five wonderful children.

She came to Jacksonville in 1949 from Astoria, New York and settled in Jacksonville Beach for a short time. Then in 1950 she moved to Southside Estates in the Arlington area where she currently resides. She married Henry B. Guilfoyle, a former Jersey-ite, in 1961 here in Jacksonville.

At the time she attended Assumption Catholic Church which was in the old frame church on Nira Street and then to the new church on Atlantic Boulevard. She learned shortly after she was in a newly formed parish, Christ the King in Arlington.

Raising five children and working wasn't easy in those days, but work she did. For many years she was employed by Don Trednick. She needed more flexible hours so she changed to Cecil's which is familiar to many of us where she was for a short while. She wasn't satisfied with the job opportunities available to her, so she attended the University of North Florida where she graduated in 1976. In 1979, Monsignor Danaher hired her as a teacher for Christ the King Grade School where Mary Ward was principal at that time. She taught the first grade for the first three months, then the sixth, seventh and eighth grades until she retired in 1991.

Mrs. Guilfoyle is known best for her expertise in teaching English and a love of literature. In addition she created a great awareness of the value of life to her students. One year her seventh and eighth grade classes participated in the National Society of Christians and Jews Speech Contest and they won the First Prize. She is proud to have two of her former students teaching at Christ the King- Stefanie Whaley and Kim Stoddard Repper.

Evelyn Guilfoyle's family of five lovely children whom she

cherishes are Kathleen, who graduated from Christ the King and Bishop Kenny. She has three children and lives in Smyrna, Georgia. Winifred, is also a Christ the King and Bishop Kenny graduate who teaches at Mandarin Middle School and is also the mother of two children. Paul followed in his sibling footsteps at Christ the King and Bishop Kenny. He is the father of two children and is Vice President of the Mail Carriers Union. Paula is Paul's twin and the mother of two sons also followed in the Guilfoyle tradition of education. She is a registered nurse at St. Luke's Hospital. Then came Mary who graduated like the others but is now deceased, however, she is remembered for her humor and smiling personality and she left three children. It is believed that she was the first to be baptized at Christ the King in St Mary's Chapel at the orphanage next to Christ the King.

Evelyn Guilfoyle was also very active in Christ the King parish life as well as school activities. She was Chairman of St. Joseph's Circle Six for three years. They did all the usual things of annual Christmas card sales, card parties, and rummage sale which included a second location at a vacant lot on downtown Union Street. Evelyn remembers a church bar-b-que at which each circle had a task of supplying 100 pounds of baked beans. Thanks to Cinotti's, who were located on Beach Boulevard at the time, took over the bake job for us.

Evelyn assisted Sister Enda in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program for 14 years from 1981- 1994. She has worked in the Gift Shop for 14 years and continues to work part time on Sundays before and after the noon Mass. She has been a member of Eucharistic Adoration for several years but as result of a stroke in 1994, she had to discontinue her scheduled hour, however, she continues to substitute. She has also been in Faith Sharing for several years. Then there was bingo, working both in the kitchen and selling cards.

Evelyn donated \$500 for an American flag to be placed on the Altar in honor of her husband, Henry B. Guilfoyle, a veteran, however, the flag was later removed as it was inappropriate.

Evelyn has many memories of her activities in Christ the King parish and school. "Christ the King has been a very large and satisfying part of my life and I would never consider going any place else."

In 1991 Christ the King School designated the year book to Mrs. Evelyn Guilfoyle, "a person committed to Catholic principles, to innovation, and to creativity in teaching."



class of 1990 - 1991

The Christ the King community Guilfoyle! Thank you for being one is so very lucky to have a person as of us. caring and dedicated as Evelyn

Volunteer Extraordinaire



by Darlene O'Neal

This volunteer comes from a family of extraordinary people. He is the son of Blanche and Bill Iglesias, long time members of Christ the King parish. He is brother to Jeff, Ken, Cathy and Sister Theresa. This young man is Bill Iglesias.

Bill was born in New Orleans, Louisiana but only lived there a year. His family moved frequently, however, after they moved to Jacksonville, Bill finished his last two years of high school at Bishop Kenny. He is a graduate of FSU with degrees in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Bill is very active at Christ the King Church and L'Arche Harbor House. He has volunteered at Harbor House for seven years and served on the board for six months. He was a sponsor to Robert McCormick, one of the residents of Harbor House, for the RCIA class of 2003-2004.

Bill is a Eucharist Minister and also a regular Visitor of the Sick Eucharistic Minister. He is a reader at the 5:30 Mass on Thursday afternoons and visits homebound parishioners on Thursday evenings.

Bill was asked by Bishop Baker, former pastor of Christ the King, to come to Charleston, South Carolina to work as director of a volunteer program that had not yet been initiated. Bill worked on that project for a year and a half. This new program is known as The Diocese of Charleston Volunteers.

Bill said "Yes" when he was asked by Father Thanh to oversee the I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless monthly meal furnished by Christ the King. He has been in charge of this responsibility for almost two years.

Bill Iglesias has done volunteer work for Luman Entertainment, the company that specializes in Catholic audios for children. Bill volunteered for one year at St. Luke Productions, the company that produced the movie "Theresa."

At the present time, Bill is discerning the religious life and very recently has moved into L'Arche Harbor House. This young man exemplifies the word "volunteer."

Our Convention Trip



by Bruce & Sue Pastorini

This Convention story is not about Democrats going to Boston or Republicans going to New York City. It is more important; it is about a convention of couples who are intent on changing the world for the better. Susan and I were delighted when asked to share our trip to World Wide Marriage Encounter's Section 5 (Southeastern-USA) convention in Cullman, Alabama

For those who know Susan and me, World Wide Marriage Encounter (WWME) has been a very important part of our lives. I can confidently say our marriage would not have survived 25 years since September 29th had it not been for WWME and the support of its couples. We cherish this blessing of marital support, particularly from our circles.

You will see the WWME Logo shown on both our cars, numerous locations in our home and occasionally on our T-shirts. Just like "De Colores" or "K of C" logos are outward signs of being a Cursillo "Cursillista" or a "Knight of Columbus," the red and yellow WWME logo tell others that Susan and I are "Apostles for Marriage."

Sue and I had planned to travel with the Wagers from St. Paul's at the Beach. But, as luck would have it fate intervened and the Wagers were delayed. On the nine-hour trip, Susan and I were like newlyweds. We felt the same excitement we had on the way to the 2001 National WWME Convention at Atlanta. We put the top down on my Amigo and blasted Rock and Roll on the radio and zoomed out I-10 and up I-75. We talked about how we almost had an empty nest and how we had overcome so many obstacles that Satan had thrown our way.

We were really excited because the Section Convention was at St. Bernard's monastery and preparatory school. The convention brochure talked about a famous "Ave Maria Grotto" where a monk named Brother Joseph Zoetti spent his life creating over a hundred replicas of famous shrines in a beautiful contemplative garden. Ave Maria Grotto is a wonderful shrine and it is a must see if you are in northern Alabama.

We arrived late Thursday night at our hotel and went to "Bubba's Steak Place" to eat and relax. As soon as we returned we went to the jacuzzi spa and "plotted." (began to think of ways to liven up the occasion with laughter.)

Arlington Circle had a tradition of practical jokes; the famous five month old "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree" passed home to home with loving messages, hosting a meeting only to find your mother's picture hanging at the couple's home hosting the next meeting, coming out of a meeting and finding your car decorated with hearts in Bingo markers. It was obvious Susan and I had a proud tradition to uphold.

Fridays first order of work before we went to help set up the Gym was: buy balloons, white shoe polish and make friends with the hotel staff. Being an old soldier Bruce taught Susan and the hotel staff the finer points of short sheeting beds (the other couples from our area). The staff loved it.

Friday night was "short-sheet night"; Saturday morning our goal was to make sure your car was decorated with white shoe polish saying "Just Married" or had the WWME insignia on it. By Saturday night everyone was trying to figure out who the artist was. Here is the picture of our Section leaders' car, their two boys giggled. Father



Dennis Hughes and his sister kind of turned red when we unknowingly put "Just Married" on their car! Sue "Picasso" Pastorini is an awesome graffiti artist; "Taggers" from New York City keep calling for tips.

I mentioned "balloons" - Saturday night was "balloon night" for all of the couples we went with from our area, the Boutins, Tates and Wagers. After Sue recovered from single handedly blowing up over 70 red and yellow balloons, the hotel staff, Susan and I got a great giggle when we put the balloons in the showers. We visualized, "What a great convention Dear, I'm gonna go take a hot shower, **What the heck are all these red and yellow balloons doing in here!!!!**"

Of course - "what goes around comes around!" Remember my Amigo? It is a convertible and as all convertible owners know, locked doors mean nothing. Sunday morning - Bruce went down to load the suitcases into the car - from the steps he saw



the doors wrapped in toilet paper and looked closer. **WHAT THE HEY!?** "Oh no, Sue, you've got to see this! **THE CAR IS FULL OF RED AND YELLOW BALLOONS!**" - Jef Boutin said it all, "**Revenge is so sweet.**"

The convention itself was a wonderful gathering. The band was a Life Team band from Birmingham, Alabama. It was a "family friendly" convention where couples brought their kids who joined St. Bernard's summer camp program and enjoyed hiking, swimming, archery, kayaking, fishing and a host of other activities while volunteer adults, not



attending the convention, babysat for the infants and toddlers in a separate well equipped playroom. One of the Values that WWME subscribes to is that strong marriages make strong families and strong families have good marriages. Children are very much a part of the movement. WWME believes marriage is a progressing sacrament with all sorts of blessings. Many marriages evolve from newlyweds, to parents of toddlers, to parents of teenagers, to parents of college kids, to an empty nest, to grandbabies. Some convention attendees were families with three generations participating. It was awesome.



Speakers at a Convention are not celebrities. They are pre-selected Team Couples from

several of Section 5 areas. They are couples and priests from all over the southeastern United States who publicly share their experience and feelings of life's ups and downs. As Charles Kuralt used to say on his Sunday morning TV show "On The Road", everyone has a story to tell. It takes tremendous courage, for that couple or priest, to publicly witness how God works in their life. Most witness that no matter what happens, cancer, bankruptcy, they trust that Jesus Christ through the sacraments of marriage and holy orders has seen them through. That, with the support of like-minded couples and priests to sustain their marriage and commitment to their parishioners, and as part of WWME, we can and will make the world a better place.



On Sunday morning the Section 5 Convention had a power point presentation put together by the group from the 2005 National WWME convention in Maryland. Any couple who has made a World Wide Marriage Encounter weekend is invited to attend the WWME National Convention in Towson, Maryland. SOGANEFL is trying to charter a bus for the trip. We promise you it will be a trip of fellowship only. If you're interested contact Sue and Bruce at 221-7143 or anof71@bellsouth.net or Bpastorini@bellsouth.net.

Below is an excerpt from the local WWME newsletter the "SOGANEFFL - BEACON"



**2005 WWME CONVENTION
"IN GOD WE TRUST"
TOWSON, MARYLAND
July 2005
"GET CRABBY!!!!!!!"**

continue on next page

Our Convention Trip

Continued from previous page:

Mark your calendar, July 9-12, 2005. You, your spouse and your family are invited to attend the 2005 National Convention to be held at Towson State University outside Baltimore, MD. The 2005 WWME National Convention will be "Family Friendly."

In a video shown at the Section 5 convention, we have been promised the best crab cakes the state has to offer and the challenge was "Get Crabby!" At the July 24, SOGANEFL Board meeting Jef and Brenda suggested we consider the possibility of chartering a bus. Any bus coordinator volunteers?

For those of you who attended the 2001 Convention in Atlanta this is your chance to re-live the wonderful experience of fellowship with couples and priests from all over the United States. Seeing three bishops and 60 priests con-celebrate a Mass is awesome. You understand WWME is a World Wide organization."

World Wide is changing the world. Section 5 convention ended Sunday about noon after Mass. The collection taken up was about



\$1200 and was to be sent to missionaries in Kenya to establish the movement there.

As we left the convention Sue and I still felt like newlyweds but we were on fire to reinvigorate all



couples in St. Augustine diocese who have attended a WWME weekend.

The end of the convention was not the end of our Convention Trip. Two weeks before our trip, Jim Kersh and Bob Vergenz had just made a pilgrim trip to the "Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament." This shrine is the one built by Mother Angelica and is about 20 miles southeast of Cullman. Jim made us promise to not miss the shrine soROAD TRIP!

As we followed the map we went on a state road, turned on to a county road, then we turned onto a 20' wide paved road. As we went on, the asphalt became a gravel topped road and kind of wound through a small cluster of rural homes. We looked at each other and asked if we missed the turn. We expected to hear dueling banjos from the movie, "Deliverance" or see George Clooney dressed in prison stripes like in the movie, "Oh Brother Where Art Thou."

All of a sudden, the road was paved again and an extensive 6-foot white vinyl covered post and beam horse fence appeared. We thought we took a wrong turn on to some Kentucky thoroughbred farm. As we crested the hill there it was. The Shrine of the Most Blessed



Sacrament looked like the Cathedral of Notre Dame in the middle of a huge cow pasture. It reminded us of the movie "Field Of Dreams." There were about 10 tour buses in the parking lot and 50 cars. I can picture God appearing to Mother Angelica and saying to her,



"If you build it, they will come." In the chapel was the most inspiring, awesome monstrence that we've ever laid eyes on. It was placed in such a position that with the lights and sunlight coming in and shining on it, the jewels shone making the appearance that it was truly alive. As we recollect on this and all of our other experiences throughout this one weekend, we find ourselves asking, "How can anyone not believe there is a God?"

It was a great trip. We urge all of you who are Cursillo, Knights, WWME or other church organizations to go to your conventions. The fellowship is awesome. Love, Sue and Sue's husband!

Religious Education 2004 - 2005

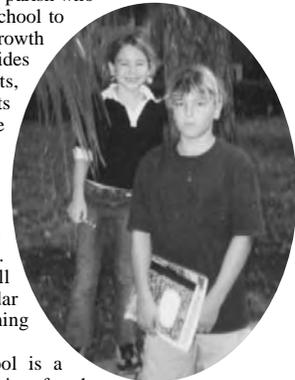


by Lucille Guzzone

Religious education classes for public and private school children began on September 1. The program affords an opportunity for approximately 110 youngsters in the parish who are not attending Christ the King School to receive an education in spiritual growth and Christian formation. It also provides preparation for the Sacraments, including special projects and retreats which they share with Christ the King school students.

Classes are held every Wednesday evening until May, and Holy Mass, Confession, visits by the priests, and holiday assemblies are provided on specific occasions. Parents are kept abreast of all activities by means of a calendar booklet, newsletters, and welcoming communication with teachers.

The Religious Education School is a necessary part of the whole community of such a vital parish as Christ the King.



And on a Personal Note...

by Lucille Guzzone

The poet, Edgar Guest, once wrote,

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands who prophesy failure;
There are thousands who point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That cannot be done, and you'll do it.

People strive for many goals. Many are easy to attain; few are improbable. However, achieving perfection in any endeavor is almost always impossible.

This past summer I was honored to spend time with someone who actually succeeded in reaching that perfect score—literally. The daughter of my cousin Ann, 16 year old Lindsay Steinbach of Burlington, Massachusetts, awed the family by making a perfect score on her SATs. The tiniest percentage of students who take this test in the entire country achieve this status. Needless to say, her parents were ecstatic.

I asked her what she did to prepare for the test. She said that she studied a practice book and worked on vocabulary. But she did not bury her head in books constantly.

She continued participating in her three sports: soccer, indoor track, and tennis, and enjoying her favorite hobbies: watching sports, movies, and reading. She supported her two younger brothers, Jason and Mark, as well, rooting for them as they played soccer, tennis, and baseball.

A well rounded young lady, the opportunities are there for her to attend Yale, Dartmouth, Harvard, or other prestigious institutions of higher learning. God bestows many gifts on his creatures, but when one takes that gift and uses it to accomplish a wonderful thing as Lindsay did, then it encourages the rest of us to do the same!

St. Vincent de Paul

by Claretta Lamusga



The St. Vincent de Paul ministry at Christ the King is made up of parishioners who visit clients in their homes and others who staff the office five mornings a week from 10 to 12 noon.

From the office we give referrals to other agencies for food, rent and utilities help as well as referring clients to our voice mail from which the "home visitors" are dispatched. We also pack lunches to be handed out to the homeless whether they come to the office during regular office hours or to the front door of the rectory at other times of the day or evening.

Approximately 50 Thanksgiving baskets and 50 Christmas baskets are given out each year. Each basket holds approximately \$50 worth of food.

We want to thank all generous parishioners who donate food, money and/or time to this worthy cause.

Gertrude Samson Patrick, One of a Kind

by Landa Paladini



What words could adequately do justice to pay tribute to my friend of over thirty-five years? Gertrude was a person who epitomized what it meant to be a friend. She was caring, generous with her time, a wonderful listener, always supportive, gifted in so many areas, a faithful servant of the Lord, and most important a loving wife and mother.

When I first met Gertrude she was married to her beloved second husband, Larry, having been widowed several years earlier. At that time she and Larry were busily engaged in raising a family of seven children.

It was in the fall of 1968, probably in late October close to Halloween, at the school bazaar that we first met. Gertrude and Larry were there with their youngest child, Amanda, who was about three years of age at that time. My oldest daughter, Lisa, who was in the 7th grade came running over to me and said, "Mom, come and meet my Girl Scout Cadet leader, Mrs. Patrick." I did and thus began a thirty-five year friendship. Once a year, Gertrude would proudly shepherd her flock from the Prime Osborne Railroad Station in Jacksonville up to Savannah to visit the home of

Juliet Lowe, the Girl Scout founder. Gertrude made sure that each girl in her charge knew how and when Girl Scouting began. Many young girls owe much to Gertrude for her leadership and the skills and virtues that she instilled in them.

It was in the following year that we were both hired as 5th grade teachers at Christ the King. Gertrude would stay on at Christ the King for another ten years moving from Language Arts Specialist to assuming duties as head librarian thus having a chance to work with all the children whom she loved dearly.

Besides teaching full time and taking care of her husband and family, Gertrude managed to obtain her master's degree in Educational Administration. I must inject that Gertrude loved people and parties and so, of course, there was this wonderful bash at the Patrick household with all friends from far and wide who came to celebrate this occasion. It was a spectacular evening and those in attendance still fondly remember that night.

Gertrude loved people and to be invited into her home was always a special occasion. I loved to go there as she and Larry had made it a house devoted to their passions. Stepping into the home there was the music area, which they both loved. An entire wall was devoted to the tenor, James Melton, with signed photographs hung proudly on the wall. There is a long history here and suffice to say they had the largest collection of his records in Florida. Moving to the right of the photos one would find a framed gallery of sheet music from the 40's and 50's colorfully hung above her keyboard. There was a golf room with special pictures of tournaments and awards they treasured. In the kitchen Gertrude was a culinary artist and a true French woman with all of her pots carefully hung from the ceiling ready to be the bearer of one of her fabulous creations. One of the

former children's rooms was now the French room paying homage to her French heritage complete with elegant European phone.

Gertrude was the most unique of individuals always interested in others coupled with an insatiable curiosity covering a myriad of subjects. She was a great outdoors-person. She loved to garden and I fondly remember at Christmas time she would gift her friends with camellias, reds, pinks and glistening whites.



And could this woman play golf! It was a passion of hers and, weather permitting, she and Larry could be found on the golf course every weekend. When Gertrude was still working for the Duval County School System she had acquired quite a reputation as a golfer but that's what you would expect from a person who always gave her best.

When I stated that Gertrude was unique that comment involves many aspects of her life but nowhere does it more apply than to her children. Gertrude was a wonderful mother. She had an entire wall of her home devoted to her children. All their pictures were of equal size (8x10). Beginning with the first row you would find pictures of the seven children as they graduated from grammar school, the second row as they graduated from high school, the third row as each child graduated from college, and the fourth and fifth row were pictures of those with higher degrees.

Believe me when I say the entire wall was covered.

This woman was a dynamo and when she would start on a project nothing could stop her. A few years ago she decided it was time to do her genealogy so that her children would know from whence they came. Gertrude was able to trace her family back to the 17th century in Normandy where the Samson family originated. Not only did she trace the history of the family from France to Canada and to all parts of the United States she personally went to the little town of St. Gaten in Normandy where, on the church wall, there is a plaque commemorating the day that the two Samson brothers left for the New World to make a better life. Might I add that she spoke perfect French, which only added to her charm.

I could go on and on with what this woman accomplished in the days allotted to her, but suffice to say that she even prepared a Living Will for her children. No, this is not a legal document but a living testament on how one should conduct one's life. And, of course, it covered many subjects alphabetically arranged! The topics covered were varied and contained advice on such matters as "Dogs, one of the greatest gifts God has given us; Courtesies, treat family and close friends with the same courtesy you show to strangers; Death, very permanent - there is no going back for repairs; Gossip, it hurts twice: it harms the absent person who cannot speak in his/her own defense and it harms you; Troubles, don't ever speak widely about your troubles but save those intimacies for the one or two people with whom you feel close; and . . .

Lastly, "be gracious because, if you are not, it doesn't really matter what else you are!" Gertrude, my friend, you were always gracious!

Meet our New Receptionist



by staff writer

Let me introduce you to Catherine Hawkins.

Catherine joined the Christ the King rectory staff on September 28 in the middle of Hurricane Jeanne. Before joining the rectory staff Catherine worked for nine years as Assistant to the late Bonnie Seaver, Director of the Diocesan Respect Life Office and three years running the Audio-Visual Library for the Office of Christian Formation.

Catherine, who resides in the Sacred Heart Parish area, has recently joined Christ the King parish. She has two sons; Daniel, 23 serving on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk stationed at this time in Japan, and

Charlie, 20 still at home who works for Publix. Catherine completed the Ministry Formation Program, established by Bishop Snyder in our diocese in 2001. This program provides a three-year comprehensive program of study, pastoral formation, and spiritual development for those seeking leadership skills for ministry in the Catholic Church. Participants are provided the opportunities for theological and spiritual development and to relate their own gifts and experiences to the needs of their parishes or diocese.* The program is accredited by the USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation.

Before coming to Christ the King, Catherine worked part-time. She was looking for a full-time position and wanted to continue to work in the church environment. In her leisure time, Catherine is not one to sit and do nothing, she enjoys her pets and her plants, and is often times out in her garden. Not long ago she took up roller-blading. With our busy parish, she may need those roller-blades.

We gladly welcome Catherine to our Christ the King home.

*Information taken from St. Augustine Ministry Formation Program website at: mfpstaug.catholicweb.com

Coffee and Donuts Ministry



by Al Martin

The "Coffee & Donuts" Ministry is considered one of the ministries under Hospitality. Teams of volunteers greet the Donut Man at 5:45 a.m. on Sunday morning and then begin arranging the donuts on tables and getting the coffee ready to serve to you after the first two Masses on Sunday mornings.



Often the serving team gets an opportunity to show and tell you about their particular parish ministry. (Other times the team of volunteers is made of people from several ministries.) Our goal is to have teams of volunteers serve only twice a year. However, we are blessed in that some teams of volunteers are willing to serve more than twice a year.

Al and Wanda Martin are the current coordinators of the "Coffee and Donuts" Ministry. We thank all our volunteers who have sacrificed time and talent to serve on a specific Sunday. We are also grateful to several of our contributors for the new coffee urns, juice cooler, storage cabinet and white, wooden pedestals for the cooler and urns, as well as the coffee signs. Thank you again for your time, talent and treasure.

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women



1954 Guild Installation

by Pat Humbar

Our sincere congratulations on the occasion of Christ the King's 50th anniversary celebration. We have become a big family over these 50 years and it is hard to realize that time has gone by so quickly. Most of us were transferred from other cities leaving our large families behind so the people of Christ the King became our family.

Let us take time to celebrate the women of the Christ the King Guild, which is now known as the Council of Catholic Women. Our accomplishments over the 50 years at Christ the King are many. When

something had to be done who else would the pastor turn to but the Guild. Raising money through the bazaars, suppers, garage sales, card parties, luncheons, you-name-it, the ladies of the Guild would do it. Individual circles have demonstrated their generosity and joy during the holidays. We had many fun projects like our variety show in which our parish talent was surprisingly good.

In 1985 the Guilds would be called Councils and were now known as the Council of Catholic Women. The Council has been happy to lend its time, talent, and treasure to our church in that it purchased pews, had the Stations of the Cross redone by our in-house artist, Delores Fete. Our Council has also been a contributor to Sister Therese's library fund. It has had stair rails installed and lighting in the parking lot. It has redecorated the foyer of the rectory and the bride's room in the church.

The first affair in the Kingdom was a fashion show by JC Penney. Pat Humbar was President of CKCCW at the time and Betty Obi was the lady in charge of the show.

The Council also had a Christmas affair with decorations from Kuhn's Flowers and it was followed by a reception after the Christmas Mass and Living Rosary.

The Council had receptions for the children and families after Confirmation which allowed them the privilege of meeting our beloved Bishop Snyder. Also the Council had clothing drives for victims in Appalachia, gathered clothes for Dress for Success, and supported Hubbard House.

CKCCW has been active with many parishes through the Deanery, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Women in Washington, D.C. Some of our members have leadership roles in the Deanery and Diocesan levels and are presently active on national and international levels.

RICK AMMIANO - COACH PAR EXCELLENCE

GEM

by Ray Walker

Christ the King parish has produced or furthered the development of some notable and memorable people—some highly visible, others almost obscure. One man most of us know little or nothing about is Richard 'Rick' Ammiano (Ammean) who has been the Athletic Director of St. Patrick's School in Jacksonville since 1973. He was born September 27, 1951 in East Orange, New Jersey as was his father, Jud and his mother, Grace Colgan before him.

Jud Ammean is second generation Italian-American while Grace boasted of a combination Irish-Italian heritage. Both worked with the Prudential Life Insurance Company in East Orange. The family which consists of Rick 53, Robert 51 and Michael 48, moved to Florida in 1953 when Prudential established its Regional Office in Jacksonville. When the Ammiano family emigrated to America from Italy, some members 'Americanized' their name to Ammean but by common agreement in the mid-1980's they all changed their name back to its original spelling, 'Ammiano'.

Those Christ the King members old enough to remember, vividly recall Jud Ammean and his wonderful band. There were many dances during the 50's and 60's at the Southside Women's Club where we enjoyed Jud's 'Big Band' music. Rick remembers his Dad having a similar band in New Jersey. By the time it reached Florida, Big Bands were substantially 'down-sized' so that

many were six or eight piece bands. Regardless of the number of musicians, 'swing' music sounded as great as it always did.



Rick attended 1st and 2nd grades at St. Paul's Elementary School at Jacksonville Beach, then the family moved into Christ the King parish and he completed 3rd-8th grades there. He went on to Bishop Kenny High School and after graduating, enrolled in St. Leo College where he majored in Physical Education. During those years, with advice from a number of people, he gradually decided to become a coach.

Joe Parete, the Athletic Director at Bishop Kenny was a long time friend and mentor. When Rick graduated from St. Leo's, Joe told him about a coaching opportunity available at St. Patrick's in Jacksonville and recommended him for it. Rick was interviewed by Father Tom Gordon, the pastor, and Sister Carmel who worked in the school and was hired in 1973. He coached and taught science for three years, then switched his academic work to Social Studies which he continues to this day. He has also been the Vice-Principal for many years.

Rick and Helen Porter were married in 1974 and have two children—both girls—Toni Marie, 28, married with two children and Traci, 23, also married with one child. One of the best ways I know to get the true measure of a man is to find out who his 'heroes' are. When I asked Rick who made the greatest impression on him in his life, he immediately, without any hesitation, replied, "My Dad". And, the reason— "Because he was a good worker". What a blessing it has to be for a father to know this and equally blessed is the son who learned the lesson well.

In the 30 years I have been associated with St. Patrick's Church, I have never ceased to be amazed at Rick's work ethic. He is at the school almost every Saturday and not coaching or teaching. No, you will find him gardening, cutting grass, steam cleaning the outside of the buildings or any of a hundred other similar jobs. He learned from his father well.

A few years ago St. Patrick's built a beautiful gymnasium. I took pictures of every phase of the work—even the most trivial, which I made into a book for the pastor, Father McDermott. The trenches for the footings had just been dug when it rained that night. I stopped by the next day, Saturday and there was Rick, down in the trench with a shovel removing whatever loose dirt that had been washed down into it.

Somehow, Jud Ammean got a copy of the picture and was devastated. "I can't believe it", he told his son. "After all the money I spent on your college education, here you are digging ditches!" I am sure that when the father learned

the real circumstances, he was no longer disturbed but proud of his off-spring. Two other people Rick names as his 'heroes' were his grandfather, Bill Colgan and Joe Parete, the Athletic Director at Bishop Kenny High School.

While Rick's interests are bowling and golf, when asked what he would like to do in retirement, he said, "Travel with Helen, especially through the mountains in North Carolina". Even though the athletic prowess of St. Patrick's students is unsurpassed—numerous trophies and awards testify to this, Rick is better recognized for the positive influence he has had on so many of his charges over the past 30 years. Father McDermott told me that in all the profiles that people have submitted for marriage preparation that he has reviewed over the past 15 years, almost no former student of St. Patrick's mentioned the impact the pastor or



their teacher had on their life but many were the laudatory remarks made about Coach Ammiano and how he had helped them time and time again.

There are very few Christ the King people who know anything about the life of this outstanding man but the Church can take justifiable pride in this former student and his exceptional contribution, not only to society but the Church as well.

MOMS

by Darlene O'Neal

Having completed the Spring session of MOMS, I was asked to write my comments about the MOMS ministry for the *Courier*. Wow! Was I surprised!

I thought it was a ministry for mothers with young children. My youngest child is thirty-nine! I soon learned that the age of our children doesn't matter. We all share the same thing — motherhood.

Before the first session, I was apprehensive about being the oldest mother there. Well, I was, but it was okay with everyone else so it was okay with me. By the time the second session ended, our group of women had bonded in a special way.

I shared with them stories about my family and listened to them about their families. We prayed together and laughed together and cried together. Each of us was

assigned a person to pray for us during this time. I met my prayer partner after Mass one Sunday. This really sweet young woman came up to me and introduced herself. She told me she had been praying for me and gave me a big hug. Her name is Kim O'Malley and I will always remember that meeting. The time spent at the sessions was most rewarding, to say the least.



L to R: Mitzi Vergenz (Lead Facilitator), Eluanie Doherty, Patti Saunders, Sonya Yates (Facilitator), Cheryl Callavini (Facilitator), Leslie Shannahan, Darlene O'Neal

I would recommend this ministry to all mothers, no matter how young or old. There was a celebration dinner for the newest moms after the final session. Father Thanh and Father Carr joined the ladies for the festivities in the Shirley David Hall. Awards were given to the newest MOMS and fun was had by all!

The whole concept of MOMS, in my opinion, is to support other moms and help them to realize their

self-worth, to help them to grow spiritually and in some cases, to give them a break from the every day chores that mothers have. I certainly could have used this kind of support when my four children were growing up.

The facilitators for these sessions were very patient, attentive, spirit-filled and just nice people. They are all involved at Christ the King — Mitzi Vergenz is a choir member, Cheryl Callavini is a Eucharistic minister and Sonya Yates is involved at the school.

Some of the moms that have already been to the sessions provide child care, so if you would like to find out what MOMS is all about, please call Debi Ethridge and come see for yourself. If I had known what a great ministry the MOMS is, I would have said "yes" a year ago when Debi first asked me to join. These ladies are doing a great job for each other and for our parish. Go MOMS!

Nostalgia

by George Olin Middleton

Several weeks ago there was a notice in the parish bulletin that Christ the King School would host their annual Grandparents Day. I was suddenly floating in a sea of nostalgia as I recalled Grandparents Days we had attended when our granddaughter was a student at Christ the King School.

One year a grandmother holding her granddaughter by the hand asked us if it was our first experience with Grandparents Day. We told her that it was not. She said it was her first time and she did not want to do anything wrong. She wanted everything to be perfect for her granddaughter's sake. She asked if she could hang out with us so that we could guide her along. The two of them were with us all morning. They sat with us at breakfast and visited the classrooms with us afterward.

Another year one of our granddaughter's little friends told us that her grandparents could not attend. She asked if we would be her grandparents for the day. Who could have said no! That child was with us all morning. She asked if she could sit on my lap. She put her head on my shoulder and said, "You smell so good." I hugged her to me and wished at that moment that she really was my granddaughter. I had enough room in my heart for two or more just like her.

Our granddaughter is 18 years old now. Last May she graduated from Bishop Kenny High School.

Bishop Kenny did not host a Grandparents Day. It would have been a tremendous undertaking. Grandparents would have over-run the campus. At Christ the King School it was a wonderful opportunity to talk to other grandparents and to meet our granddaughter's young friends.



JUDY'S BIG ADVENTURE!

by Darlene O'Neal

Who was that lady touring Key West on a trolley? That was Judy!

Who was that lady learning all the dance moves to Saturday Night Fever? That was Judy!

Who was that lady being threatened by a pirate with a big sword? That was Judy!

Who was that lady dancing with the waiters at dinner? That was Judy!

That busy lady was our own editor-in-chief, Judy Koziolk. Judy was cruisin' with the Queens and Kings from Christ the King. Judy was having fun on her first cruise on Carnival's ship, the *Celebration*, that left Jacksonville on October 12 for five days and nights. One could easily say that Judy was determined to make this trip despite a series of mishaps. To begin with her first cabin-mate passed away before the cruise set sail, she never received her actual travel documents and had to board with only a receipt and to cap it off, the person taking her to the ship terminal missed the turn and ended up in Georgia before realizing it and had to turn

around. Through all of these obstacles, Judy kept a positive attitude and finally found herself as a passenger on the *S.S. Celebration*.

Judy had fun touring Key West on a trolley with a group of friends, getting off to have a picture taken next to the marker for the southernmost point in the United States, and strolling down the main street in Key West.

Judy shopped for gifts for her grandkids and even bought a lovely necklace for her cabin mate.

Judy posed for pictures that the ship's photographer seemed to snap every time she turned around. She looked for one in particular but couldn't find it posted on the photo board. It was of a hairy pirate with a sword threatening to slice her throat. One of her friends had secretly bought it and submitted it for this article.

Judy had fun watching the Broadway style shows on board and learning all the disco moves at dance classes. One night during dinner, she and some others at her table joined in dancing with the waiters. She even found time at night to walk a mile on deck. Whew!!! When the ship docked at Nassau in the Bahamas, Judy took a



tour to view the famous Atlantis Hotel, via the ferry. She got in some extra walking exercise on that tour! Carnival Cruise Line describes their ships as "the fun ships" and Judy sure had lots of fun on her first big adventure.

Here's a look at those who assisted:
 John Morrissey, Fred Wheeler, Dennis Scobie, Howard Sell,
 Jesse Morgan, Al Martin, Louie O'Neal, Tom Guggisburg,



The breakfast on the Feast of Christ the King was served by the Arlington Knights of Columbus. If you attended, you were served eggs, sausage, cheese grits and a roll. Of course, coffee was provided, but I heard mimosas were, too!

Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass



The annual Memorial Mass for the Knights of Columbus was held November 5, 2004. Monsignor Danaher said the Mass was well attended. The traditional ceremony of lighting a candle in remembrance of deceased knights was solemn. The K'Ceas also light a candle for deceased wives. Afterwards, tables decorated with angels held wonderful selections of finger foods and desserts for all.

PAST GRAND KNIGHTS ROAST



by Darlene O'Neal

The Knights of Columbus (K of C), Council 4727 was the setting for a very special night on January 22, 2005.

The event was to honor all 36 Past Grand Knights (PGK) of Council 4727. It was a fun filled night for the near capacity crowd as everyone dined on Italian dishes that had been prepared and served by very generous volunteers.

Past Grand Knight Frank Becht was the host for the evening as he took everyone on a "Walk Down Memory Lane." Frank told stories about when and how the council began, as well as the men who served as Grand Knights. Council 4727 was formed in 1959 when Father Larkin was looking for a replacement for the Holy Name Society. He wanted a men's family organization and chose the Knights of Columbus.

The Council operated for the first several years from the wood frame building in the woods known as the Club House. Council 4727 originally served four parishes in the Arlington area; Christ the King, Blessed Trinity, Resurrection, and Holy Spirit.

There had not been a PGK Nite since 1999, when PGK Butch Ferrizzi was honored. This was a difficult period in time due to a lack of a permanent hall and the Council operated from Christ the King. The property that had been purchased on Merrill Road and the hall built on it was sold. That hall had been



dedicated in honor of Pope John XXIII.

The present council hall is located on the Arlington Expressway.

Over the years, there have been many worthy men to hold the office of Grand Knight, beginning with Captain Harry Shimborg. Some have been a little more outstanding than others, but all have been hard working men of substance. Dr. Frank Broome was the first to serve in the new hall on Merrill Road. He formed the K-CEE's and started the Charity Ball Dance, which is being resurrected. He also was instrumental in starting the Turkey Shoots. Many other accomplishments were made known, such as, there have been three very outstanding Past Grand Knights. Jim Mullaney was the first Florida State Deputy from Council 4727 and Dennis Stoddard was the second Florida State Deputy. Dennis held many State positions and has the ultimate honor of Supreme Director.

Gino Rocca won the State membership award, served as District Director for four years, installed the new council at Holy Spirit and remains very active in K of C Charities.

The focus of this PGK Nite was on the last three men who held the office. Pasquale Bianco was the first to be honored and roasted (all in good fun). Pat was born in Georgia, but moved to Jacksonville when he was four years old. He attended local schools and met his wife, Dolores, at the Jacksonville Catholic Club in 1954. Pat first



joined the Knights of Columbus at Council 1951 and later transferred to Arlington Council 4727 where he started his climb to the office of Grand Knight.

During the years that Pat served, the hall on Merrill Road had been sold and the council operated from Christ the King. Pat thought of himself as a "Man without a Country." Things weren't always easy then, and Dolores offered her help as much as possible.

Pat took a lot of jokes about his height and was given a stilt platform for his shoes to make him taller. He was also given a custom made stool with the K of C symbol on it. He was a good sport during all the roasting by Frank Becht. Pat is still very active and rarely misses a meeting. He was given a PGK pin and a Grand Knight plaque by Grand Knight Al Martin.

The second honoree for the evening was George Coseo, who came to Jacksonville by way of New York. George always lived life to the fullest and met his wife, Carol, when he was about fifteen. They dated steadily, married in New York and had three children. George's mother lived with them for 25 years before they moved to Jacksonville.

George had joined the Knights in New York and transferred to Bishop Kenny Council. One day while shopping at a local Winn-Dixie, two knights were working the Tootsie Roll sale and drew Carol's attention. After a brief conversation, a form to change councils was produced and George



became a member of 4727. He served as Grand Knight in 2001 to 2003. A frame of "Santa George Claus" was shown on a projector screen and drew quite a few laughs. Deputy Grand Knight Dennis Scobie did the roasting of George and Grand Knight Al Martin presented him with his Grand Knight plaque and PGK pin.

The third PGK to be honored was Mike Yarborough, who served for 2003-2004.

Mike was a good sport as he was roasted by Clarence Casterlin. The audience was treated to pictures of Mike as a young boy up in a tree, as a teenager sporting big hair, and later pictures of him and his wife, Mary. Mike is a dedicated husband and father to three children. Mike had an opportunity to do a little roasting himself when the microphone was turned over to him. Grand Knight Al Martin also presented the Grand Knight plaque and PGK pin to Mike. The table got turned slightly when PGK Tim Stack called on PGK Frank Becht to come up and sit in the hot seat and then proceeded to roast him! Frank had been awarded the State Council Award during his office.

It was an honor for Council District Deputy Tom Claudio, along with his Deputy Warden, Chris Ebreo, to join everyone for the evening.

PGK Jim Bonitatus was also recognized as well as PGK Bob Onorato, Council 11069.

This was certainly a "grand night" for all the Past Grand Knights, their families, and their friends.

Spot Light Volunteer

Our Precious Gift From Bethlehem



by Able Greenwood

Our star from Bethlehem, Patrice Pruitt, alighted in Jacksonville on April 6, 1990. She illuminated Mandarin at St. Joseph's parish for seven years after moving here from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Patrice and her family then moved to Arlington and the search for a new parish began. Holy Spirit parish was right around the corner, Resurrection parish just down the road. They tried Christ the King, encountered our pastor (then Father Baker a "wonderful man"), and found their worship home. Our parishioners made them feel welcome here.

After seven months or so Patrice was invited to a covered dish dinner by some ladies from the

Council of Catholic Women. She knew no one there but everyone at the dinner was friendly and she saw the doors opening for her participation in parish life at Christ the King.

Patrice volunteers for many things at Christ the King. Her first love, though, is for the Christ the King Council of Catholic Women. She is currently president of that organization and says the "council is my heart." During her son's serious ailment she discovered she had 140 "mothers" who let her know they were always there for her. She even had a "secret pal" during this trying time who would send her a card about every month that would contain movie tickets, a little cash, Publix gift certificates or Mass cards just to let Patrice know that she and her family were cared about and prayed for. Her family benefitted from the compassion of those whom she calls "ordinary women doing extraordinary things" and is herself an example of the women of this ministry, who she says reach out and touch so many people.

Patrice's parish involvement doesn't end with the CKCCW. She is the Co-President of the Family School Association. As an alumnus of MOMS she still helps with that ministry. She has worked as a Special Olympics counselor at "Camp I Am Special" and enjoys working with handicapped youth.

Our parish school benefits from her attention when she helps out in most any capacity that is asked of her. She directs cars for the Safety Patrol in the afternoons during student pick-up. Patrice attends all CKCCW meetings, all Christ the King School Board meetings, all FSA meetings. She sets up the cafeteria for various functions and cleans up afterward. The Ministry of Hope (gives assistance when a family loses someone) is another ministry in which she is becoming active. Patrice lost a family member last year and this ministry stepped in and helped her and her family. She said that she had never realized what a precious gift this ministry was before she became a recipient of their help.

Patrice praises her husband for his support of her volunteer activities. She calls him "the world's best husband" and basks in the genuine love they have for one another. They are each other's best friends. Their son, Michael, completes their circle of love.

When she finds the time, Patrice enjoys playing tennis. Actually, her love for tennis caused her to leave Catholic school to attend public school where she could play tennis and pursue her goal of becoming a professional tennis player. Unfortunately, a back injury kept her from realizing that particular dream. Patrice's roles of wife, mother, friend to many and

volunteer fulfill and nourish her instead.

As those who are acquainted with her know, Patrice is a woman of strong opinions. She believes the changes that have taken place in the parish recently are for the best. Patrice thinks changes made and contemplated by the new face in the rectory, Frank Japour, have value and understands that it is hard to please everyone. She would like to see more priest/children interaction in the school and feels it is important for the children, especially the younger children, for the priests to play a bigger part in their learning experience. Bible readings by a priest or Bible stories told by a priest have a greater significance for the children because of the respect they have for the clerical collar.

If Patrice could change one thing in the parish, she would eliminate the rumor peddling and gossip that occurs so frequently in our parish. It harms everyone it touches and helps no one involved. She says the energy expended in these activities would be better spent in time and talent endeavors with more positive results.

Finally, Patrice would like us all to know that Christ the King Church has some of the best people she has ever met in her life who genuinely care about each other and the parish. Patrice, you light the way for the rest of us.

The Advent Tree



by Pat Setser

Christmas only comes once a year. Some people feel that the preparation time is just too much work and are extremely glad that it is only an annual event. How would you like to plan for the giving of over 1300 gifts each Christmas? That is what Trudy Cameron has been doing for over ten years. She took on the project many years ago and she now has it fine-tuned. However, when you rely on others to buy, wrap and tape the supplied gift tag on the gift and return it by a specified date, there can be some re-tuning to be done. As always Trudy just keeps a smile on her face and manages to replace gifts or distribute gifts that arrive on a date past the deadline. Unless you are involved in this process, you will never know the importance of the deadlines.

Trudy always relies on others to help with portions of this massive ministry to 13-thirteen agencies. First, ornaments need to be cut out and she does most of that except for the more intricate designs. Then using the lists which come from the various agencies, each color coded ornament is labeled with the agency, person's first name, the gift requested and the size which is needed. During this process, Trudy recruited Kathleen Rein, Kathy Robertson, Betty Becht, Mary Ann Danese, Rita Wendel, Ashley and Rebecca Yount and Bobby Yarborough (her grandson). The



ornaments are hung on the assembled Christmas trees in the sanctuary of the church several weeks before the deadline. This is when the congregation becomes involved by taking an ornament or two and they become personal shoppers.

When there are more gift tags than gift givers or an exceptional need arises, Trudy knows who to contact. This year there were many gifts which were needed and Mary Yarborough (Trudy's daughter) did the shopping while her granddaughter, Elizabeth Cameron wrapped them. Many people help with sorting and the delivery of the gifts to the various agencies on Monday morning.

Trudy was still playing Mrs. Santa Claus on Wednesday, bringing smiles to children, the handicapped, and the elderly. For some recipients this would be the only present they would receive. The parishioners at Christ the King have generously shared so much. They become God's hands using their time, talent, and treasure to make the life of the needy a bit better. Well over 10,000 gifts have been dispersed to the community. That's a lot of love!

Trudy wanted to especially thank Helen Ramos plus her family and friends for all their help. Of course, who can say no to Mrs. Claus?

Thank you Trudy. God will surely bless you and those who helped with this massive project.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 5

Sponsored by Christ the King Church

Scouting is about going out into the world to learn and grow. We take monthly trips around the southeast to provide the boys with a wide range of experiences. We would like to thank all of those who had their car washed or bought popcorn or wreaths. Despite my best efforts the trips do cost money. One of the principles of scouting is for the boys to earn their own way. This builds character and teaches self-reliance. The boys receive awards and advancements in scout rank as they learn and grow in maturity. The following is a list of merit badges and advancements earned in the last half of 2004. Thanks for your help.

SCOUTING RANKS

-Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star Scout, Life Scout, And of course EAGLE SCOUT.



Evan Herda- Scout
Daniel Smith-Scout



Daniel Gardner-2nd Class
Ben Lambert- 2nd Class
Justin Zeiler-2nd Class



Kadja Alic- Tenderfoot
Daniel Gardner- Tenderfoot
James McCollum- Tenderfoot
Zachery Sharpe- Tenderfoot
Justin Zeiler- Tenderfoot



Steven Gardner- Star Scout
Philip Seidenstricker- Star Scout
Warren Welk- Star Scout

MERIT BADGES

Kadja Alic- canoeing, camping, horsemanship
Daniel Gardner-fishing, golf, horsemanship
Steven Gardner- emergency preparedness, family life, first aid, fishing, golf, horsemanship, whitewater
Evan Herda- canoeing
John-Michael Hernandez- camping, emergency preparedness, horsemanship, whitewater
Ben Lambert-camping, canoeing, family life, first aid, fishing, golf, horsemanship
James McCollum- family life, first aid
Philip Seidenstricker- family life
Zachery Sharpe-canoeing, family life, golf
Ryan Stabler- canoeing, camping, family life, first aid, fishing, golf, horsemanship, swimming, whitewater
Warren Welk- emergency preparedness, family life, first aid, golf, horsemanship, whitewater
Justin Zeiler- family life, first aid, fishing, golf, horsemanship, swimming

Scrip Is All Year Round

by Mickey Kenny

Scrip has been a part of Christ the King School since 2002 and has become known to the parish as a whole through the sale of these notes which – with just a little planning ahead on your part – can effectively produce a profitable gift through the purchase of anything you were going to buy anyway! The parish itself is planning to go into the scrip endeavor.

For those who don't yet know how it works, a brief explanation: Let's say you look at the week ahead and decide to go out to eat next weekend. You would look at the list of restaurants and decide where it will be you might like to think of throughout the week and how much you think you might spend. A purchase of scrip is made by Monday and remember you will get FULL PRICE OF DOLLAR AMOUNT! If you pay \$25 for instance, YOU WILL GET SCRIP ON FRIDAY FOR THE FULL \$25 INVESTMENT. In other words: YOUR GIFT OF PLANNING AHEAD COSTS YOU NOTHING! The place you pick in which to invest pays an already agreed upon percentage as its part of the program. By looking at the list of participants on the scrip order form you will also be able to tell what that percentage of the value of your scrip will be given to the school or to the parish. And, this agreed-upon percentage will be realized immediately upon the purchase of the scrip by our Christ the King representative.

And it isn't just food. You could have a family weekend plan including a movie (either at a theater or rental), going for ice cream,

St. Vincent de Paul Society Distributes Holiday Food Baskets



by Russ Butzirus

Thanks to your continued financial support your Vincentians were again able to fill and distribute 33 Thanksgiving baskets on Saturday, November 30th and 35 Christmas baskets on Saturday, December 18th. The improving economy and lower unemployment rates resulted in fewer requests for assistance this year.

The old saying "it is better to give than to receive" was certainly apparent when you saw the appreciation in the eyes of those receiving our baskets. As usual we find that serving the needy is a most rewarding mission. Just knowing you are doing the Lord's work helping others makes our efforts worthwhile. The baskets were as complete as we could make them including: turkey, potatoes, onions, apples, oranges, celery, stuffing mix, gravy mix, sweet potatoes, spiritual prayer card, (box of peppermint candy canes at Christmas), pumpkin pie, can pumpkin, butter, Cool Whip, canned vegetables, rolls, and cranberry sauce

As the accompanying pictures show, we had a good number of Vincentians working on the two annual programs, and we were blessed with two bright sunny days. December was a little cooler than November, but that was to be expected. Besides our people working the projects, we would like to recognize the Winn-Dixie Store on Arlington Road for their assistance in procuring the

purchased food for the baskets. Also, Frank Japour for providing us, at no charge, all the boxes that were required for delivery to the needy. And a very special "Thank You" to the following young people who worked with us to fill and deliver the baskets:

Saturday, Nov 20th

ElizabethAnne Daugharty
Ryan Scobie
Rebecca Pierce

Saturday, Dec 18th

Haley Gagnon
Patten Robinson
Kelly Maroney
Rebecca Pierce
Elizabeth Anne Daugharty

It always does our hearts good to see our young people getting involved as they are the future of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Christ the King.

As mentioned earlier, this is a very rewarding ministry, serving the Lord and the needy. We can always use new members. Many of our current members have been doing this service for many years, and it is becoming harder and harder for them to continue in their later years. If you would like to learn more about the Society, what exactly we do and how we do it, please feel free to join us at one of our Monday evening meetings in the rectory, starting at 7:30 p.m. and lasting about one hour. As Jesus said in John 12:7, "The poor you always have with you," and to serve them continues to be our ongoing mission.

and after the show a little family competition with those rented video games as well. And relax . . . the gas to do the driving to and from each place can be made a part of it all! How cool is that! And, while you're running around doing these things you can be talking on your cell phone with a prior purchase of minutes if you use the right card! And why not stop at the bookstore and pick up a few really good books for yourself and the kids in order to enjoy some really productive quiet time during the next week?

Just think of the endless possibilities! This is just the tip of the iceberg: NO-GUILT CONSUMERISM!

Of course, everyone thinks of scrip at Christmas! A very profitable December saw 18,000 dollars worth sold which netted \$1,300 to be divided by the school and a reduction in book fees for those families that participated. But Christmas isn't the end of it . . .

Think of the possibilities for Valentine's Day and Easter as special days and seasons for celebrating love and family. If the restaurant you choose is on the long list of participating enterprises, be sure to order your scrip on Monday and be ready to pick it up on Friday to enjoy over the weekend. If your favorite restaurant isn't on the list, why not see if that can be altered. Who says the list can't grow?

Why not make living an ordinary, fun-filled life a continuation of your giving. If you want to help out with this project, call the school to talk with Sallie Wnuk for the school program or the rectory to reach Beth Scanlon who will be working the project for the parish. And if you aren't particularly into the work of the program but you want to participate by spending, call either of these ladies for that as well.

Bishop Kenny High School First Quarter Honor Roll

Jerlita Asunto	Victoria Lynch
Kristen Ballentine	Connor Marsh
Juliana Bejarano	Melissa Mayotte
William Blanchard	Lauren McGill
Brian Burnes	Kristin McLeroy
Cameron Crews	Nicole Miller
Kristina Francisco	Megan Mitchell
Cameron Frye	Paul Nguyen
Lauren Grochmal	Lauren Petit
Kristen Hayes	Jacob Plotz
Christopher Infante	Carlson Salud
Daniel Jerreld	Alexandria Schmitt
William Joost	Steven Vergenz
Jaaziel Juego	Justin Wall
Brian Karahalios	Ashley Yount
Jordan Lewis	

FALL RETREAT 2004, OR IS IT SPRING RETREAT 2005?



By. C.Venezia

It's both! That's right! We had two retreats in one. We had to cancel our Fall retreat, because of the "windy summer." It was a little chilly, so we had no choice, but to "WAKE UP...and See the Glory!!"

We had a huge group come out to Camp Cherry Lake to retreat from life and to focus on Christ. We broke up into small groups and discussed the awesome sessions that make these retreats what they are. We didn't stop there!

After all that hanging out and talking we needed to break out. What better way to do that than to have a massive Silly String fight? LIFE Support came in and did a skit that ended when the parents pulled out surprise Silly String and sprayed the teens. It was hilarious!!!

We also got some relaxing free time. Some people just enjoyed the day. Others, like Father Thanh, preferred to do something active. Just for the record, I believe Father beat everyone in basketball!!

Our awesome band helped keep us warm throughout the weekend by supplying some killer tunes! They especially did an awesome job on our theme song. God truly uses them as "instruments" of His work. (Get it...instruments...and they're musicians...I'll be here all week.)

We closed the retreat with lunch and "Thank You" skits for LIFE Support. I had to try to eat and MC the thing, but everyone dealt with the garlic microphone very well. We then got to come back to Christ the King and show off our killer moves to our theme song!

We had a blast this past retreat! We can't wait to do it again! The next one will be in the works soon. Be prepared!!!

Bishop John J. Snyder High School

We would like to congratulate the following students who have achieved academic honors in the first quarter

First Honors:	Second Honors:
Jammarie Porter	Alexis Smith
	Jessica Stamper
	Kevin Stevens

Christmas with a Sense of Humor

by Lucille Guzzone

On December 15, 2004, on a rather pleasantly cool evening, the children in grades 1-4 of the Religious Education program presented their annual Christmas songfest and family get together in the Blessed Mother Kingdome. The youngsters looked adorable in their colorful costumes. Some were shepherds and angels standing beside the holy family. Others donned Mexican outfits with large sombreros and red and blue vests. They were a lovely sight thanks to their teachers and parents who worked together to contribute to a vision filled with the spirituality of the season.

The annual Christmas program, however, is always filled with surprises because of the very short preparation time. Usually, the teachers begin to outline the presentation right after Thanksgiving. That leaves very little time to practice because the children attend Religion class only one hour a week. Some of the little ones have never sung an entire Christmas carol, and some of these same first graders are just learning to read, but cannot recognize words such as "manger, Bethlehem and shepherd." Fortunately, high school student Monica Lapierre accompanied them with her violin so the melody became easily recognizable.

In years past, near catastrophe loomed over the show when one year the fire alarm

was tripped which forced the children to perform outside in the dark. Another time, the young Joseph did not make it, and an adult female teacher read his lines in a very strange voice. This year was no different even though one of the hurdles took place behind the scenes. The child who was playing Mary could not locate her baby doll which was to be the Baby Jesus. It was getting close to the curtain opening, and she was not yet present in the Kingdome. Finally, she appeared with her frazzled mother who explained that they had to make an emergency stop at Super Walmart to purchase a new Baby Jesus and a white blanket which served as his swaddling clothes. The thought of little Mary dressed in blue veil and long white dress in a long line of shoppers must have turned some heads and caused a few impatient shoppers to smile.

A little more obvious to the audience was the appearance of four ornately crowned and caped kings instead of the expected three during the singing of "We Three Kings". That was the result of a little breakdown in communication, but that is another story!!!!

The Lord must have chuckled at that one realizing that a spare is always safe. Father Thanh, who graciously stayed for the entire show, complimented the production by offering an encouraging compliment, "Well," he said, "it's getting better."



THE LEGACY OF BISHOP ROBERT J. BAKER

by Ray Walker



Webster's Dictionary describes a legacy as something passed down from one generation to another. The fact that Christ the King parish in its relatively short existence has had two of its pastors elevated to the episcopacy, has got to be a legacy of major proportions. The first was its founding pastor, Reverend Thomas W. Larkin in 1979 and the most recent, Reverend Robert J. Baker in 1999. There cannot be too many parishes, even here in the cradle of Christianity in America, that can make this boast.

Bishop Baker is something of a legacy creator himself since it was he, together with Judy Koziolok, that began publication of the *Christ the King Courier* newspaper in

1998. He was also co-editor of *Welcome the Stranger; Contemporary Ministry in the Church of Florida* (1988) as well as having contributed articles to the *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South*, Mercer University Press (1984).

Before there can be good bishops there must be good priests and the latter can only come from good families. It has been proposed that the largest, single cause for the shortage of priests today has been the sad breakdown of families and family life over the past 40-50 years. Bishop Baker was fortunate to have been born into a good family, the father and mother of which attended Mass regularly with the mother receiving Holy Communion daily. In addition, as a unit, they prayed the rosary and attended novenas together. Bob Baker's entrance into a seminary at the early age of 13 was greatly influenced, according to his mother, by her brother, Father Clement Alt and her uncle, the late Father Benjamin Alt, both Precious Blood priests.

Bishop Baker's mother, Rosemary Alt Baker, grew up in Ohio where she was a registered nurse. She married her late husband, Gerald S. Baker, a funeral director, on February 22, 1941, and they settled in Fostoria, Ohio to raise the five children that God would send them. One can get a real sense of the closeness of this deeply spiritual family from comments made about Bishop Baker at the time of his episcopate ordination in 1999.

His mother attested to young Bob's singular devotion to his Church and Father Cleo Schmenk, the parish priest at Saint Wendelin's Church who greatly encouraged the young man's choice to attend Josephinum Seminary. Her remarks were best summed up with, "It had been no surprise to anyone who knew him to learn he was going to become a priest." Dr. John Baker,

the oldest son said, "Bob is a very humble guy. He is really, honestly a true Christian." and "What you see is what you get." James E. Baker, the third son who is only 15 months younger than Bob, said, "We were so close-like twins. When he went to Josephinum, I felt I had lost my best friend."

It is a belief in the Baker family that to give their priest son and brother money was to watch him give it away to someone in need. He modeled himself after Saint Francis of Assisi and has done a good job of it. Thomas Baker, the youngest brother says, "He is an exceptional priest. He took the vow of poverty and he believes in it."

Mary Ann Jepsen, the only girl sibling and the youngest child, came along late and got to know her brothers only after they were grown. She claims, "I am the one who kept him (her older brother, Bob) grounded." She adds, "Every breath he breathes is for the honor and glory of God. He is a holy man and we just love him to pieces. We are all so honored to have him as a brother and he brings out the good in all of us." How could anyone receive better accolades than these?

Father Baker was ordained a priest on March 21, 1970 and his first Mass the following day was celebrated on the first day the Mass changed entirely from Latin to English. He taught religion from 1970 to 1972 at Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville and was administrator of Saint Augustine parish and Catholic Student Center at the University of Florida in Gainesville from 1976 to 1981. His successor, Father John Gillespie, noted, "The most outstanding thing he left for all of us was the founding of a soup kitchen at the University of Florida." It was a period of very difficult times, and students, who were just trying to make it from one check to another, were coming to the Center asking for food.

The Saint Francis Soup Kitchen which opened in 1979 serves meals seven days a week. Fifteen years after its beginning in Saint Francis Hall at the Student Center, a new facility was built in downtown Gainesville which combined with the Saint Francis House, an emergency shelter for men and women. They both still operate today—25 years later. Father Baker was once again demonstrating his own deep commitment to poverty



and aiding others who needed his help.

When Monsignor Mortimer Danaher retired as pastor of Christ the King Church in 1997, Father Baker left the Cathedral parish in Saint Augustine to become the new pastor on August 1st. Besides creating the *Courier* newspaper, he also continued the "Total Stewardship Parish" concept inaugurated by his predecessor while beginning construction on a new media/library/technology center dedicated to 83 year old Mercy Sister Therese Horan. The outstanding volunteerism that had been a feature of Christ the King Church since its inception was also continued and encouraged.

During his tenure, Monsignor Danaher had established the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the exposition of which begins after morning Mass and continues until right before 5:30 p.m. Mass five days a week. Father Baker agreed with Monsignor Danaher that whatever success Christ the King parish had enjoyed was in great measure, if not completely, attributed to this beautiful spiritual exercise.

With this kind of background, it was no surprise when Father Robert J. Baker's name was submitted with whole-hearted endorsement as a candidate for bishop by Bishop John J. Snyder. It was also equally understandable that Pope John Paul II, who is in so many ways similar to this priest, selected him to be the new Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina. Unfortunately, Charleston's gain was Christ the King's loss but to its former pastor and friend, Christ the King says—

"AD MULTOS AMMOS"

God Bless You, Bishop Bob

by Kathy Purtle
September 1999

It's been two years since you came to us;
that's not so long ago;
But just as you seemed to be settled in,
'Twas time for you to go.

We've been so blest to have you here,
if only for a while;
You shared your deep, enduring Faith,
in your gentle, gracious style.

A prayerful man, of humble ways,
With warmth and dignity;
Your love for Our Lord is evident
in your peace and serenity.

You're like St. Francis to those in need,
compassion in your heart;
You've brought so much to Christ the King,
but now it's time to part.

For all your help and sacrifice,
our sincerest thanks to you;
May the Holy Spirit be your Guide,
and Jesus bless all you do.